James Milner | Magic (literally) at Melwood | New-look Liverpool Ladies | Main Stand unseen pics

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ISSUE 044

FIRMINO EXCLUSIVE

ON KLOPP, TATTOOS, GOALS AND CRAZY FOOTBALL



JORDAN HENDERSON

THE SKIPPER'S RALLYING CALL FOR ALL REDS

IGOR BISCAN

UNSUNG HERO OF 2005

STEVEN CAULKER

WHY HE'S LOVING IT AT LIVERPOOL

WIN!

THE NEW JÜRGEN KLOPP BOOK

Issue 44 April 2016

Contents

A ninth League Cup triumph would have been just capital – but let's console ourselves with dreams, songs to sing, and much more to come for Jürgen's army

LIVERPOOL

A lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, the stats that matter plus a few blasts from the past.

CLUB

How the football club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus news from the stadium, official stores and media.

Trinity Mirror Sport Media
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Coutinho's Wembley strike plus the Ladies tour of South Africa and Liverpool FC's historic city-centre alehouse!

Did the result spoil our Wembley day-out? Well, yes, a little bit. But we'll come back stronger – and remember what happened the last time Liverpool lost a League Cup final? Who scored our two goals that February 2005 day in Cardiff? The answer is on page 98.



We are Liverpool
Philippe Coutinho and the massed ranks of Reds celebrate his equaliser in the Capital One Cup final. It wasn't to be our day, but under Jürgen Klopp there is a feeling in the air that another Wembley visit won't be too far off.

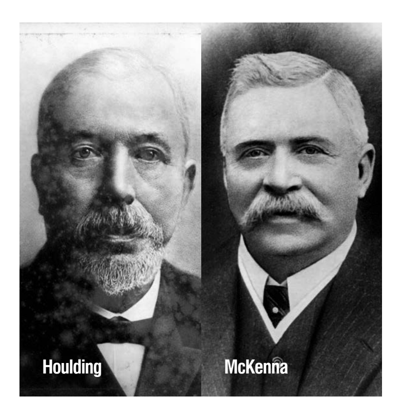

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ALEXANDRA HOTEL.

Where it all began

Locating the site of Liverpool FC's earliest promotion-winning party and its HQ for important business

Nowadays Liverpool FC's city headquarters are on Chapel Street, but 120 years ago the club's founding fathers conducted much of their business at a venue not five minutes away. The Alexandra Hotel isn't there anymore, but with the help of Liverpool Central Library's Record Office we've identified its exact co-ordinates.



Houlding McKenna

It began when we were researching LFC's historic links with Manchester United for this season's matchday programme. In May 1894, when Liverpool first won promotion to the top flight after beating United (then known as Newton Heath) in a play-off at Blackburn's Ewood Park, the following account appeared in the *Liverpool Review* newspaper:

'There were great rejoicings among the Liverpool contingent after the victory, and on arriving at Tithebarn Street Station the team was met by an enormously big and correspondingly enthusiastic crowd. Different players were carried shoulder-high to their special conveyance, and after lubrication at the Alexandra Hotel the men drove off to the Sandon where another tremendous reception awaited them'.

So where exactly was the Alexandra Hotel? An Ordnance Survey map of 'Liverpool and its Environs' from



The same site today

ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOTEL

DALE-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

NEWLY FURNISHED.

LADIES' COFFEE-ROOM.

OLD LIVERPOOL SNUGGERIES.

THE ALEXANDRA HOTEL, DALE STREET.

"THE next, please." I had the famous "snuggery" of Mr. Eberle on my list some time ago, and reproach myself for having delayed my descriptive article until the hotel, aptly named after the "sea king's daughter from over the sea," has almost ceased to be regarded as an *old* Liverpool snuggery. But the Alexandra is essentially an *old* house, and although some of its old fashionedness vanished when Mr. Eberle went out to do the "Grand," and the new and spirited proprietor came in, it may with truth be said of it that if to some of its old *habitués* it is lost to sight, to most of its old customers it is to memory dear.

I think I paid my first visit to the Alexandra on the busy day on which it was opened by Mr. Philip Eberle. I really forget the previous name of the hotel, but as there were "hotels to the right of it, and hotels to the

1891 (1:500 scale) situates it on the north side of Dale Street, a block away from Moorfields, just opposite Cumberland Street, and in the midst of other hostelries of the time like The Saddle, Talbot and White Bear Hotel.

A late-19th century guide to Liverpool describes the hotel as 'in immediate proximity to the Exchange [the centre of commerce behind the Town Hall]… admirably suitable to the requirements of gentlemen having dealings with the merchants, bankers and other leading business men'. An 1887 edition of

"The tean arrived home and headed for lubrication at the Alexandra"

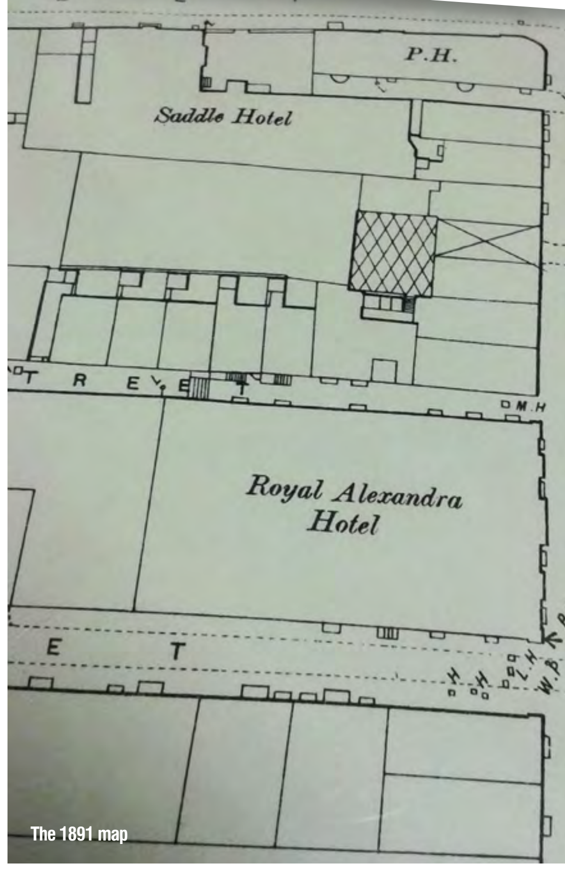
The Liverpool Citizen newspaper whimsically reported: 'The bar of the Alexandra is always a popular resort, and it is especially favoured by local celebrities… Many members of the Council and Corporate officials practise daily at the Alexandra bar'.

Among these no doubt were John Houlding, the founder of Liverpool Football Club who was a local brewer and later the city's lord mayor, and 'Honest' John McKenna, both club secretary and team manager and later overseer of ground improvements like the construction of the Spion Kop.

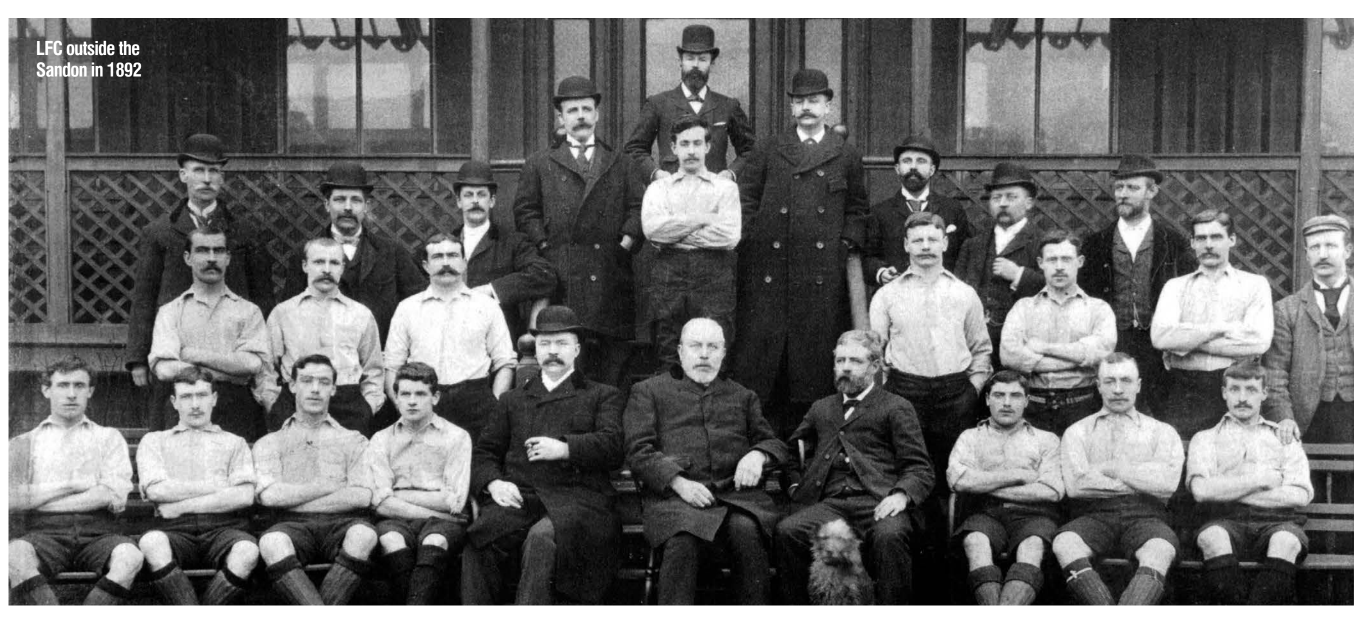
The Alexandra Hotel hosted annual general meetings of the Lancashire FA and the Football League itself, and it was also where Liverpool FC planned an annual 'theatrical football gala' held at Anfield to raise funds for local charities and 'benevolent institutions' like hospitals, orphanages and convalescent homes.

At the time of the club's formation the Alexandra had shed a reputation for 'forenoon tippling' among younger elements of the Exchange, having been acquired and refurbished by Philip Eberle. Originally from Frankfurt, he was the city's most celebrated caterer who today has a nearby street named after him (famous for its Garlands nightclub). According to the *Citizen* he laid on 'most of the great public banquets and feasting entertainments' in Liverpool.

Aside from Anfield stadium itself and adjacent buildings like The Sandon (the public house owned by Houlding where the players used to change) and Stanley House (where Houlding once lived) no other LFC-related buildings of note have survived into the modern era. Although, sadly, nothing remains of the Alexandra, there is at least another hotel on its site today – the Beatles-themed Ibis Styles – while the spirit of commerce lives on, sort of, with a Tesco Express!



The 1891 map


LFC outside the Sandon in 1892

GAME ON!

Anfield showdown sees Liverpool FC's Spanish stars beat England aces at FIFA 16 – but only just

It was England v Spain at Anfield as Jordan Henderson and Nathaniel Clyne took on Alberto Moreno and Jose Enrique in the latest edition of FIFA 16 Player Tournaments – thanks to EA Sports, the official football video gaming partner of Liverpool FC.

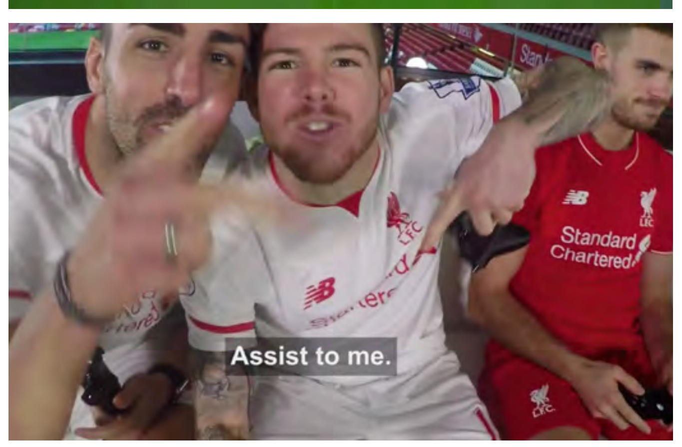
One goal did the trick in the winner-takes-all match in the Centenary Stand, and it went to the LFC away team (Jose and Alberto) as the LFC home side (Jordan and Nathaniel) attacked in vain. "It was too easy for us," laughed Enrique as he and his compatriot lorded it with their selfie-stick!

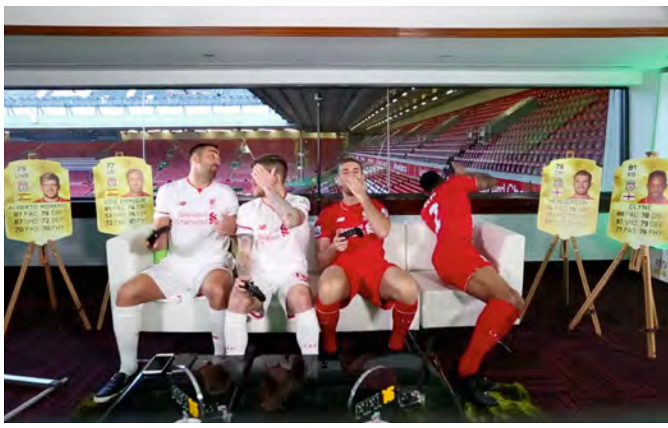














LIVERPOOL LADIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

The girls are just back from their first overseas pre-season tour and goalkeeper Siobhan Chamberlain kept a diary for us



SATURDAY: after about 24 hours of travelling it was lovely to be greeted by a group of Liverpool supporters when we arrived at the hotel in Johannesburg, singing and cheering as we got off the bus. We didn't have much time to relax before we were put to work and manager Scott Rogers kindly reminded us that we 'weren't on holiday' as we all got a little excited about the sunshine! Training that afternoon was only very light but it was good to get the travelling out of the system and have a look at the pitch we'd be playing on the following day. The Nike Football Training Centre in Soweto is a fantastic venue for the area and great to give youngsters there the opportunity to play football every day.

Liverpool Ladies tour in association with Discovery



SUNDAY: morning was meant to be a chilled-out team challenge, but given the competitive nature of us all it turned into sprinting through corridors and an incredibly competitive morning. Of course my team won but we're still waiting for our prize! Although we'd only arrived the day before, today was game-day and we had a 60-minute training match against Yarona Ladies. It was an important test for us ahead of Wednesday's big match.

Playing in the 30-degree heat when you're used to freezing English conditions is hard enough, but throw in the altitude and a challenging surface and it definitely made things difficult! After going down 1-0 we showed great character to win the game 2-1 with late goals from Caroline Weir and Katie Zelem. Not the best of performances but it was important to get the win and we managed to grind out the result!









MONDAY: not your average day as a footballer. It started off fairly normally with a morning training session, but the afternoon was a slightly different affair. Some of us took part in a photo-shoot for the South African Sunday Times. It was great fun having our hair and make-up done professionally, although some of the outfits were 'interesting' to say the least. The photographer was amazing so we're looking forward to seeing the shots, although don't expect anything you see to be on a high street near you any time soon!

TUESDAY: probably one of the most heart-rending experiences a lot of us have had in our football careers. After another morning training session we headed down to Alexandra, one of the worst-off townships in South Africa. We met 40 young girls who love football and got involved in a coaching session with them. It was amazing to see how



football can bring people together from all walks of life and can give people from disadvantaged areas the chance to aspire to reach their dreams. To tour South Africa was a fantastic opportunity, but to be able to give back to the local communities was even more important and I think that we probably enjoyed it as much as the kids did.

WEDNESDAY: it's not often you have a jam-packed schedule on a matchday, but when you're in a country with so much to offer it's impossible to fit it all in. Wednesday morning was pretty busy to say the least but a day I'm sure none of us will ever forget! It was an absolute honour to be invited to visit Nelson Mandela's Foundation and be shown around his office and museum. We were then able to go and visit the Lion Park, I don't think you can go to South Africa without going on safari. Travelling round the park we saw lions, zebras, and cheetahs and then even got to cuddle a baby lion cub and feed a giraffe. Not your average matchday prep!

The match on Wednesday night at the Soweto Nike Football Centre didn't get off to the best of starts. We got stuck in Johannesburg rush-hour traffic so they had to delay kick-off, the pitch was waterlogged and then we were 2-0 down (against the run of play I might add) at half-time. However, a sign of any good team is how they react to adversity and our second-half performance was pretty impressive, coming back to win 6-2!

I must add a special thank-you to











all of the youngsters from Waterstone College who helped to clear the pitch as well as the Liverpool supporters that came to watch and sang their hearts out throughout – it definitely made a difference.

THURSDAY: you don't often get recovery days in 30-degree sunshine and an outdoor pool so it's safe to say we made the most of our final morning in South Africa. I don't think that anyone had been so keen to get in the pool and stretch! However, a couple of hours later and we had the loudest thunderstorm I'd ever heard – probably a saving grace for the pasty ones of the group who had turned a little red!

The trip finished with a team lunch at a local South African restaurant and some traditional face-painting. It was quite an ending to a great trip and now we can look forward to the new season, starting with a tasty FA Cup tie at home to Manchester City on Sunday 20 March…

WHAT'S



ON: MAR

JK v LVG parts two and three coming up

UNITED IN EUROPE

The Reds' reward for overcoming Augsburg in the last 32 of the UEFA Europa League is a a tie against Manchester United in the Round of 16. Louis van Gaal's team saw off Danish side FC Midtjylland in the Round of 32. The first leg of the eagerly-awaited clash will be held at Anfield on 10 March with the return set for 17 March. Simon Mignolet says: "It's a fixture to look forward to. You want to face European teams [rather than domestic rivals] but it's Manchester United – we look forward to it."

SAINTS DAY

Liverpool sign off for March with a trip to Southampton on Sunday 20 March. The side was held to a 1-1 draw by the Saints in Jürgen Klopp's first Premier League home game when they met in the corresponding fixture at Anfield in October as Christian Benteke's bullet-header was cancelled out by a late leveller from Sadio Mane.



HILLSBOROUGH SERVICE DETAILS

Friday 15 April 2016 will be the 27th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster that cost 96 Liverpool fans their lives. This year is a significant landmark for the families as it marks the conclusion of the Hillsborough Inquests and also the final Memorial Service to be held at Anfield.

Tickets can be obtained free of charge by phoning the LFC Ticket Office on 0151 264 2500, by postal application to Liverpool Football Club Ticket Office, PO Box 204, Liverpool, L69 3JF or by visiting the Ticket Office at Anfield. For planning purposes, the closing date for tickets is Thursday 31 March.



LADIES DAY



New girl Emma Lundh

Liverpool Ladies begin the 2016 FA Women's League campaign on Wednesday 23 March when Birmingham City will be the visitors to the Select Security Stadium.

The fixture will be manager Scott Rogers' first home league game at the helm, coming just three days after his side host Manchester City Women in the fifth round of the FA Women's Cup on 20 March.

Rogers said: "A lot of people have said Birmingham could struggle this year but I disagree. They have lost Karen Carney and Becky Spencer but the core of their group have stayed together and they have experienced players, some of whom have played in the Champions League. Everyone knows that Birmingham like a physical game but I'm not the football police – you can play how you want to.

"They are effective and very good at what they do so I am expecting a tough game that night. Anyone who underestimates Birmingham this year does so at their own peril."

The Reds boss hopes his new-look team will receive plenty of backing for the WSL curtain-raiser.

"I'm hoping that the fans are happy with the players that we have brought in and want to come and watch this new era of Liverpool Ladies. For ourselves and for women's football, we hope there's a good crowd who turn out that day and they will be entertained by what they see."

Season tickets are available priced at £35 for adults, £17 for children under 16 and concessions and family tickets are also available at £70 for two children and two adults. To purchase season tickets please visit **liverpoolfc.com/ladiestickets.**

Birthdays and anniversaries

Simon Mignolet 28 on 6 March
Jerzy Dudek 43 on 23 March
Djimi Traore 36 on 1 March
Joey Jones 61 on 4 March
Kolo Toure 35 on 19 March
Joe Allen on 26 on 14 March
Danny Murphy 39 on 18 March
Gordon Milne 79 on 29 March
Jordan Rossiter 19 on 24 March
Lazar Markovic 22 on 2 March
Kenny Dalglish 65 on 4 March
Fernando Torres 32 on 20 March

49 years since Emlyn Hughes made his LFC debut on 4 March
35 years since Graeme Souness scored a sublime European Cup hat-trick in Liverpool's 5-1 defeat of CSKA Sofia on 4 March
90 years since Gordon Hodgson scored his first LFC goal on 10 March
7 years since the Reds defeated Real Madrid 4-0 at Anfield in the Champions League first knockout round second leg on 10 March
19 years since that 4-3 win over Newcastle on 10 March – see page 42!
4 years since Steven Gerrard's Mersey derby hat-trick on 13 March
7 years since the 4-1 win over Man United at Old Trafford on 14 March
39 years since that epic 3-1 win against St-Etienne on 16 March
35 years since Bruce Grobbelaar joined the Reds on 17 March
80 years since Phil Taylor made a scoring debut for the Reds on 28 March
37 years since a 2-2 draw with Man Utd in the FA Cup semi on 31 March

FIXTURE LIST 2015/2016

AUGUST

Sun 9	Stoke City (A)	1-0
Mon 17	AFC Bournemouth (H)	1-0
Mon 24	Arsenal (A)	0-0
Sat 29	West Ham United (H)	0-3

SEPTEMBER

Sat 12	Manchester United (A)	1-3
Thu 17	Bordeaux (A, Europa Lge M1)	1-1
Sun 20	Norwich City (H)	1-1
Wed 23	Carlisle United (H, COC 3) (won 3-2 on penalties)	1-1
Sat 26	Aston Villa (H)	3-2

OCTOBER

Thu 1	FC Sion (H, Europa Lge M2)	1-1
Sun 4	Everton (A)	1-1
Sat 17	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	0-0
Thu 22	Rubin Kazan (H, Europa Lge M3)	1-1
Sun 25	Southampton (H)	1-1
Wed 28	Bournemouth (H, COC 4)	1-0
Sat 31	Chelsea (A)	3-1

NOVEMBER

Thu 5	Rubin Kazan (A, Europa Lge M4)	1-0
Sun 8	Crystal Palace (H)	1-2
Sat 21	Manchester City (A)	4-1
Thu 26	Bordeaux (H, Europa Lge M5)	2-1
Sun 29	Swansea City (H)	1-0

DECEMBER

Wed 2	Southampton (H, COC 5)	6-1
Sun 6	Newcastle United (A)	0-2
Thu 10	FC Sion (A, Europa Lge M6)	0-0
Sun 13	West Brom Albion (H)	2-2
Sun 20	Watford (A)	0-3
Sat 26	Leicester City (H)	1-0
Wed 30	Sunderland (A)	1-0

JANUARY

Sat 2	West Ham United (A)	0-2
Tue 5	Stoke City (A, COC S-F)	1-0
Fri 8	Exeter City (A, FAC 3)	2-2
Wed 13	Arsenal (H)	3-3
Sun 17	Manchester United (H)	0-1
Wed 20	Exeter City (H, FAC 3 replay)	3-0
Sat 23	Norwich City (A)	5-4
Tue 26	Stoke City (H, COC S-F) (won 6-5 on penalties)	0-1
Sat 30	West Ham (H, FAC 4)	0-0

FEBRUARY

Tue 2	Leicester City (A)	0-2
Sat 6	Sunderland (H)	2-2
Tue 9	West Ham United (A, FAC 4 replay)	1-2
Sun 14	Aston Villa (A)	6-0
Thu 18	Augsburg (A, Europa Lge R32)	0-0
Thu 25	Augsburg (H, Europa Lge R32)	1-0
Sun 28	Man City (N, Capital One Cup final) (lost 3-1 on penalties)	1-1

MARCH

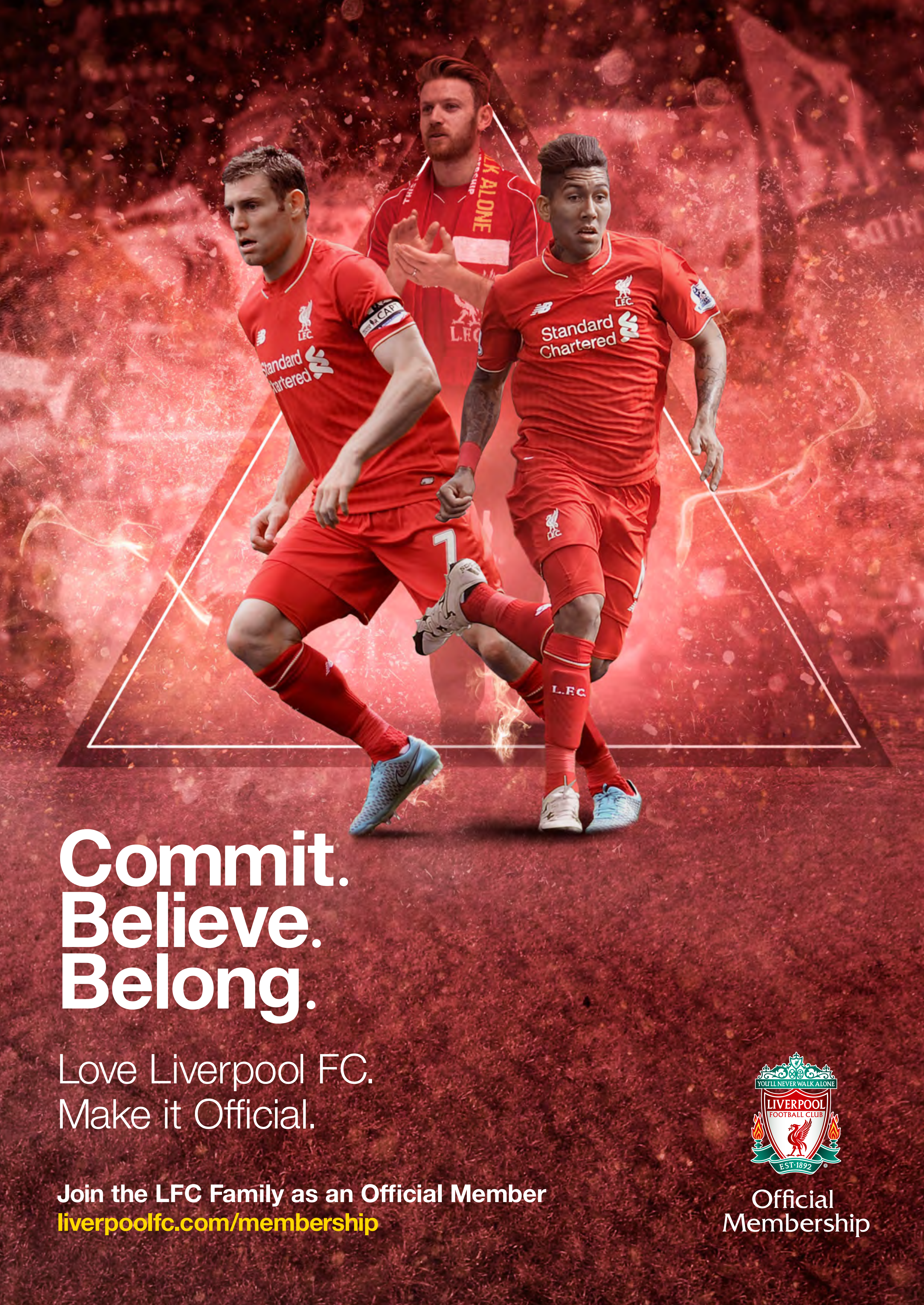
Wed 2	Manchester City (H, 8pm)
Sun 6	Crystal Palace (A, 1.30pm)
Thu 10	Manchester Utd (H, Europa Lge R32, 8.05pm)
Thu 17	Manchester Utd (H, Europa Lge R32, 6pm)
Sun 20	Southampton (A, 1.30pm)

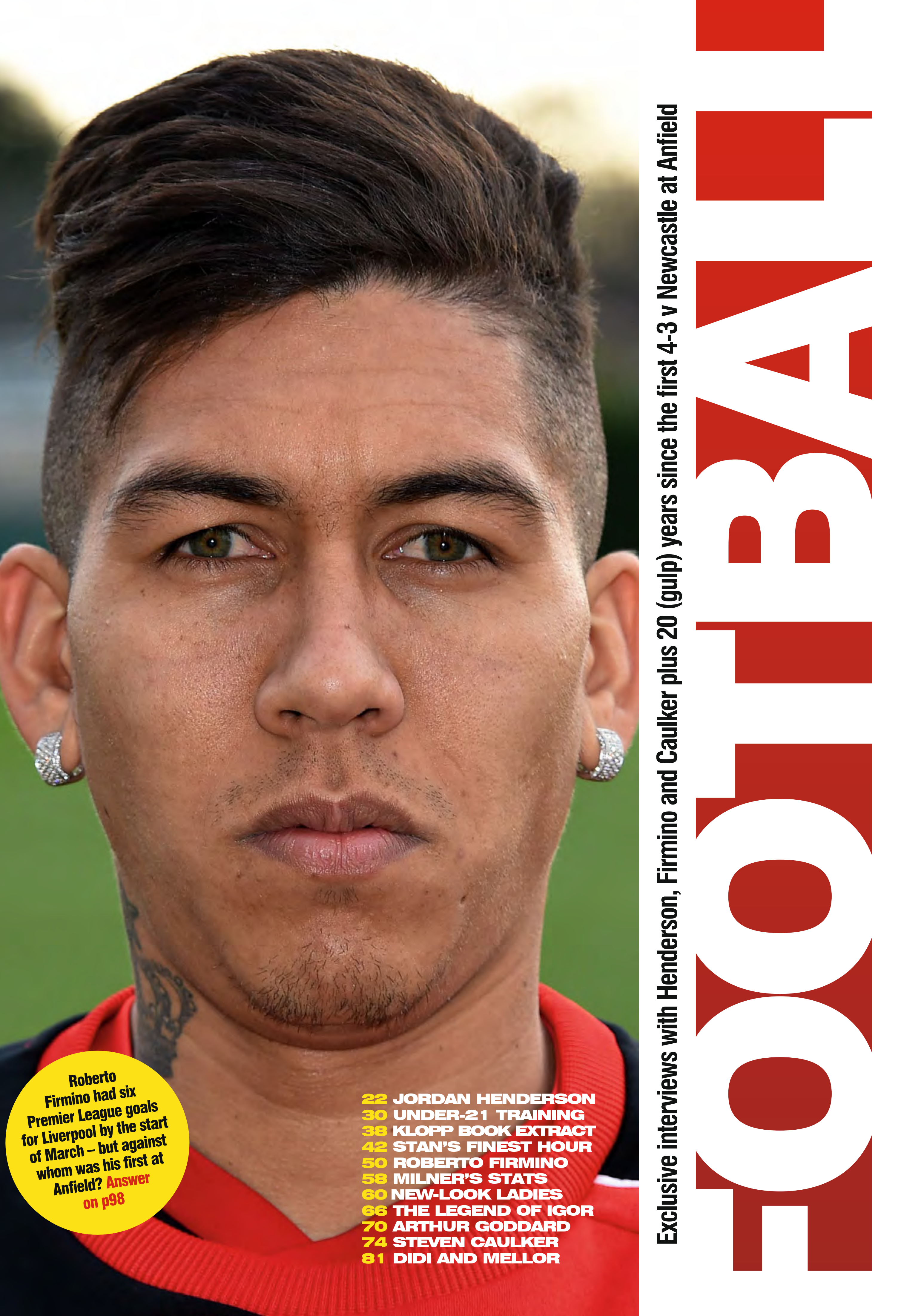
APRIL

Sat 2	Tottenham Hotspur (H, 5.30pm)
Sun 10	Stoke City (H, 4pm)
Sat 16	Bournemouth (A, 3pm)
Sat 23	Newcastle (H, 3pm)
Sat 30	Swansea City (A, 12.45pm)

MAY

Sat 7	Watford (H, 3pm)
Sun 15	West Bromwich Albion (A, 3pm)
Sat 21	Emirates FA Cup final
TBC	Everton (H), Chelsea (H)


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Membership



Roberto Firmino had six Premier League goals for Liverpool by the start of March – but against whom was his first at Anfield? Answer on p98


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14
L.F.C.

SKIPPER'S SEASON

Reds captain Jordan Henderson sums up a seesaw season in his own words



My first season as Liverpool FC skipper

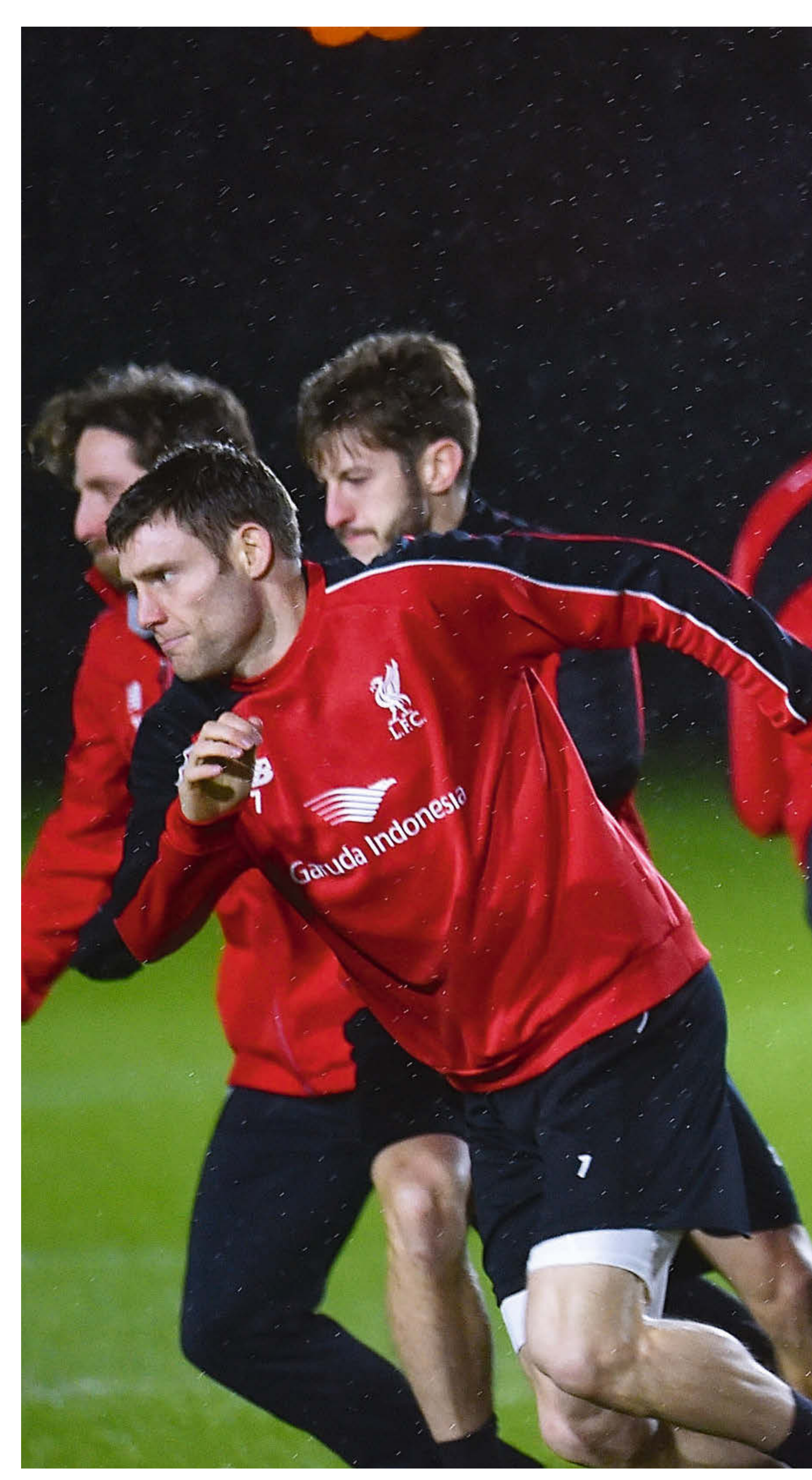
My approach to games hasn't changed too much since I was made captain back in the summer. I've tried to keep a lot of things the same. I think being vice-captain last season really helped me. It meant I already had a fair idea about what to expect. Obviously as the captain it's my job to sometimes say something to the lads before a game. However, I feel you can say too much at that time. Players quite often don't need that because they just want to focus on being right and what they need to do once they go out on the field. What I say, or if I say something, might depend on what game it is or who we are playing, and it's usually something off the cuff. I won't be writing it our or rehearsing it the night before! It's just down to instinct or how I feel. At times a few words might be necessary to get everybody going or get the team's energy levels up before we go out on the pitch. So it varies from game to game.

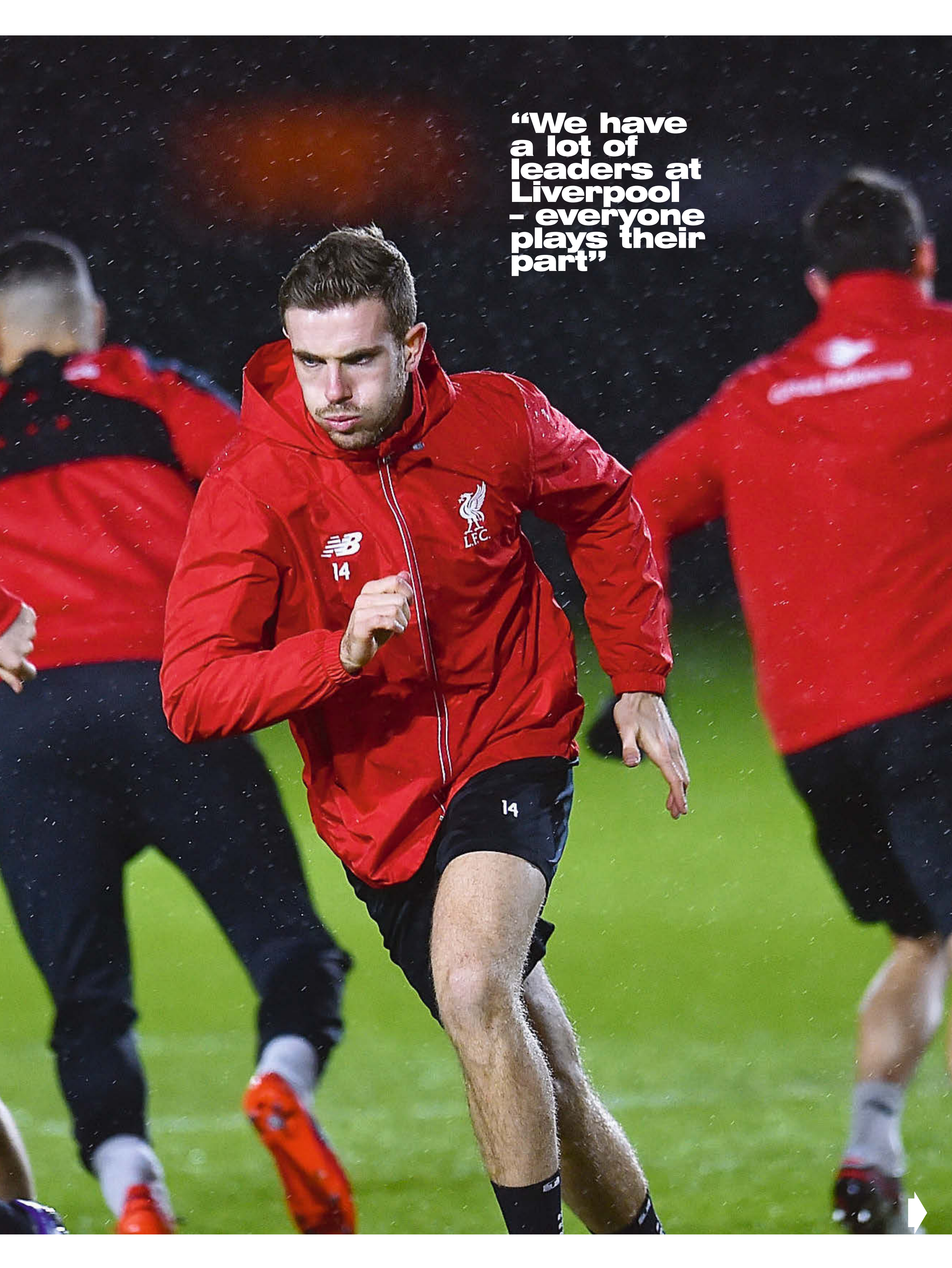
The good thing is I know we have a lot of leaders and characters in the dressing-room so it's not just down to one person; everybody plays a part at setting an example. One big difference about being captain is the fact that you have more interviews to do, but I accept that. I look at it as taking pressure off the lads if I do it because it means they can concentrate on other stuff, I think that's especially important for the younger lads who are still learning about the game.

Dealing with all the highs and lows

Players are always affected by results, but I think if you're the captain it has an even bigger impact on your mood. A defeat definitely hurts more. If we lose on a Saturday I can quite often still be in a bad mood about it on a Monday night. It depends on the manner of the defeat too. Obviously no defeat is good, but if the performance level isn't what it should be then that's even worse. Sometimes you will play well and something out of your control, like a refereeing decision, might cost you a win. So in those situations you can maybe take some consolation from that fact. But if it hasn't been a good team display then I think about it even more. Part of that is probably because I've been here for a long time now, as well as being the captain. I think I'm learning how to deal with those things as I get older.

The flip-side of course is that a win feels even better when you are captain because you are very proud of the team. Either way, though, I probably need to be better at keeping a lid on my emotions and trying to stay balanced about it. One of the good




"We have a lot of leaders at Liverpool – everyone plays their part"
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L.F.C.
14

"The boss brings so much positive energy to the team and club"

things about having so many games this season has been there isn't really time to think about any result for too long. You have to move on quickly, and I think that's good for me and every player.

Injury and the road to full fitness

I'm really not a good spectator: I'm probably more nervous when I'm sat on the sidelines rather than out there playing. You are really frustrated because you just want to get back as soon as possible. I don't think patience is one of my greatest virtues. The problem with my heel has been even more frustrating because it's the type of injury where it's hard to put an exact date on when you will be back, whereas if you have a more common injury you have a good idea about a rough return date [Jordan missed three months of the season with a heel injury and subsequent broken toe].

Accepting that it was going to take time wasn't easy. Even then, when I did start playing again I found it difficult because I expect a high level of myself and wasn't able to immediately get into my flow and rhythm. I've been working hard and doing the right things to make that happen and will continue to do so until I'm back to the standard I want to be at.

I think the number of injuries we've had this season is the worst situation I've known since I've been here and probably during my time at Sunderland too. It's been difficult, there is no denying that. I think any team would struggle to deal with the number of lads we've had unavailable at different points this season. It's obviously a big factor in why our performances haven't been as consistent as we'd like. Thankfully some of the lads have come back now. If we can keep them fit for long periods I think you'll see better displays and more consistent results.






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Lining up the wall

Escaping the pressures of football

My biggest release – probably my only release or escape from the game really – is my two little girls and my missus. They help me deal with it all. If you are changing a nappy or doing something like that then you aren't really thinking about football, because you can find yourself focusing on football or going back over a result for most of the day and it is draining. Football is everywhere– you turn on the TV and it's there, or you can be in the car and it comes on the radio. So it's important that you do have some down-time and can escape. For me, that's the family.

The best thing about Jürgen Klopp...

I think first and foremost he brings a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm to the team and the club. You can see that on the pitch. He smiles a lot – except for when we don't play well obviously. Already I think he's had a big influence on all of us and I'm certain that the longer we work with him the better we'll become as a team. Tactically he's very good. We do stuff on the training-field that I see us taking into game situations and that's pleasing. It will take time, though. The more we train with him the more he'll be able to put his own stamp on things.

I think you've seen glimpses of what he is trying to do in certain games this season. Showing that for 90 minutes on a regular basis is the next step and what we are all looking to do. From just a few months of him being here I think he can help us to win trophies, which is want everybody associated with the club wants.

"We want to show the fans that we're with them – just like they're with us"

And a word about Roberto Firmino...

Being completely honest, I had seen very little of him before he arrived here from the Bundesliga last year. Naturally he needed some time to settle in but he's been brilliant for us, especially over the last few months. He's a very, very good player with a lot of skill who also works extremely hard for the team. He's provided goals and I think he's much more robust than people realise, he's quite wiry. Now it's about him continuing to grow and get even better.

Why we gave our shirts to the travelling fans at Villa Park

I've been a fan at a game and a gesture like that makes your day [after Liverpool's 6-0 win at Villa Park the captain and his team-mates gave their jerseys to the fans]. As players we shouldn't forget that. We wanted to show the fans that we are with them, just like they are with us. We understand it's very frustrating for them when there are situations like what happened with the tickets and the protest.

Obviously for us it's slightly difficult or awkward because we are almost in the middle. We have a duty to both the fans and to the club. So for the ticket issue to get sorted so quickly was a big plus for the fans and us players. That's why we wanted to give them our shirts at Villa, to say thanks for the support. With that issue out of the way it was good to know that we could just concentrate on the football again.


Aston Villa away: a day for the fans

Interview: John Hynes


Garuda Indonesia
Standard Chartered

LFC U21

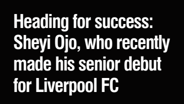
The club's next generation are put through their paces at the Academy in Kirkby with photographer Nick Taylor on hand to record a typical day's training



Hands up who loves being at the Liverpool FC Academy? The lads stretch before training

Defender Tom Brewitt and striker Jack Dunn lead the sprint-relay drills through the yellow poles









Heading for success: Sheyi Ojo, who recently made his senior debut for Liverpool FC



Lean on me: Republic of Ireland defender Corey Whelan and Bolton-born left-back Sam Hart limber up



Only the best: this season's official Premier League footballs



Fine playing surface, bright winter sunshine, game in progress: what more could you want?


Whassup! Midfielders Dan Trickett-Smith and Pedro Chirivella caught on camera


Aerial duel between defender Joe Maguire and creative midfielder Adam Phillips


Liverpool Way: short sharp passing to the backdrop of the main Academy building



Goalkeeper Owen Wheeler saves at the feet of forward Ben Woodburn



The Academy's yellow player mannequins used for perfecting free-kick techniques



Training session over and it's striker Ben Woodburn's turn to collect all the bibs

Another day, another dream fulfilled: the lads head back to HQ with a low sun overhead

An Evening With Gary McAllister

Friday 1st April 2016

at Anfield Stadium



Join LFC Legend Garry McAllister for a night to remember at Anfield. Listen to "Macca" talk about his magical first season in 2000/01 when Liverpool FC won the treble and the part he played in the UEFA cup final against Alaves in Dortmund.

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"A VERY PROMISING COMBINATION"

This extract from a new biography explains why Klopp and Kop are the perfect fit…

There's no question that, as the reaction to his appointment shows, Klopp and Liverpool have the potential to be a very promising combination. It helps that he speaks English fluently – a basic prerequisite for managers in general and in particular for Klopp's philosophy, which envisions personal contact with his players. Equally, Liverpool is a highly emotional and legendary club, like Borussia Dortmund – and therefore fits very well with Klopp's passionate personality. He can give full rein to his passion in the intense atmosphere of an English stadium, with the spectators close to the edge of the pitch.

Both clubs are famous for their completely loyal fans, whether in the South Stand in Dortmund or the Kop at Anfield. In both places there is an emphasis placed on developing promising talent and not exclusively placing bets on buying in the finished article. Robert Lewandowski, Klopp's former striker at Dortmund who grew into a world-class player, described his manager's approach in 2014: "Klopp recognises talent and puts his money on talent. He doesn't just buy players but also has an eye open for young developing talent who could help him implement his plans." One example Lewandowski named was his fellow player in Dortmund and Munich, Mario Gotze, who scored the winning goal for Germany in the World Cup final against Argentina. Klopp was the one who gave him the chance to prove himself in Dortmund's senior squad and formed him into an international – before Gotze was tempted away by the pied pipers of Munich.

There are also similarities between Liverpool and Dortmund's position when he took over the club. When Klopp started at Dortmund in 2008, the club was floating around in the mid-table doldrums. Within three years





Spion Kop

Yellow Wall

he had led Borussia to a Bundesliga title. If he is able to win the Premier League with Liverpool, he'll be similarly revered. Liverpool fans there have been yearning for the club's nineteenth league title since 1990 – a near-eternity given the club's dominance in the 1980s. And especially considering Manchester United passed them on the list of all-time title holders in 2011. The 2013/14 season, when they narrowly missed out on the title to Manchester City, only intensified this desire. For Klopp, the challenge at Liverpool is similar to the one he encountered at Dortmund: to rebuild a sleeping giant and bring it back to its former strength.

As much as the clubs from Dortmund and Liverpool may be similar, Thomas Helmer – the former Dortmund, Bayern and Sunderland player – also finds differences: "It's possible that the fans' loyalty to their club is even more extreme in Liverpool than it is in Dortmund," he suggests. "Even the expectations in Liverpool are much higher than they were when he joined Dortmund in 2008. In fact: while Dortmund had feared for its existence just a few years before due to considerable financial turbulence, Liverpool recently carried out significant investments – thanks to its American investors Fenway Sports Group and the enormous sums from the Premier League's television contracts"…

Do some clubs naturally suit a manager more than others? It's an interesting question: would Klopp be suited to manage, say, Bayern Munich – Dortmund's bitterest rivals during Klopp's tenure, and the biggest club job in his native Germany? Authenticity might be an issue here: this is ultimately one of the first characteristics ascribed to Klopp, and such has he cultivated his distinction from Bayern and his identity with Dortmund that an about-turn of these proportions might be a difficult one to sell. Klopp seems a different case to Ottmar Hitzfeld, who managed the switch from Dortmund to Bayern successfully, but Hitzfeld usually seemed controlled in his dealings at Dortmund, whereas Klopp had embraced the club heart and soul…

The challenge of managing Bayern is different to managing Liverpool. Bayern are a team who currently have hardly any competition in the Bundesliga: the title is expected, rather than something that hasn't been won for decades. Settling down in a ready-made nest, as would be the case with Bayern, is not Klopp's modus operandi. The German could become a Liverpool legend – in contrast to Munich, where he would only be one manager among many. Unless, perhaps, he led Bayern to victory in the Champions League.


Hands-on manager at Melwood

Personal touch at Dortmund

For branding expert Frank Dopheide, Liverpool is a good fit for Klopp in terms of clubs that would suit him. "Based on his qualifications and his history of success, he could basically manage anywhere internationally. Even his language and speaking skills work in English. However, which top-level clubs still stand for friendship, family, homeland and faithfulness these days? Juventus and Inter Milan no longer stand for anything. The 'Royals' from Real Madrid are too divorced from reality. It's impossible to picture Klopp standing on pitchside there in a tracksuit and hoodie, screaming. Perhaps he fits best with one of the old 'working-class' clubs in England. Manchester United was founded by rail workers – but has long been in the hands of American billionaires. The same is true for Liverpool. But here the world's most loyal fans celebrate and sing.

'You'll never walk alone' is part of the logo, the game and the soul. That's already something in common that can be felt"…

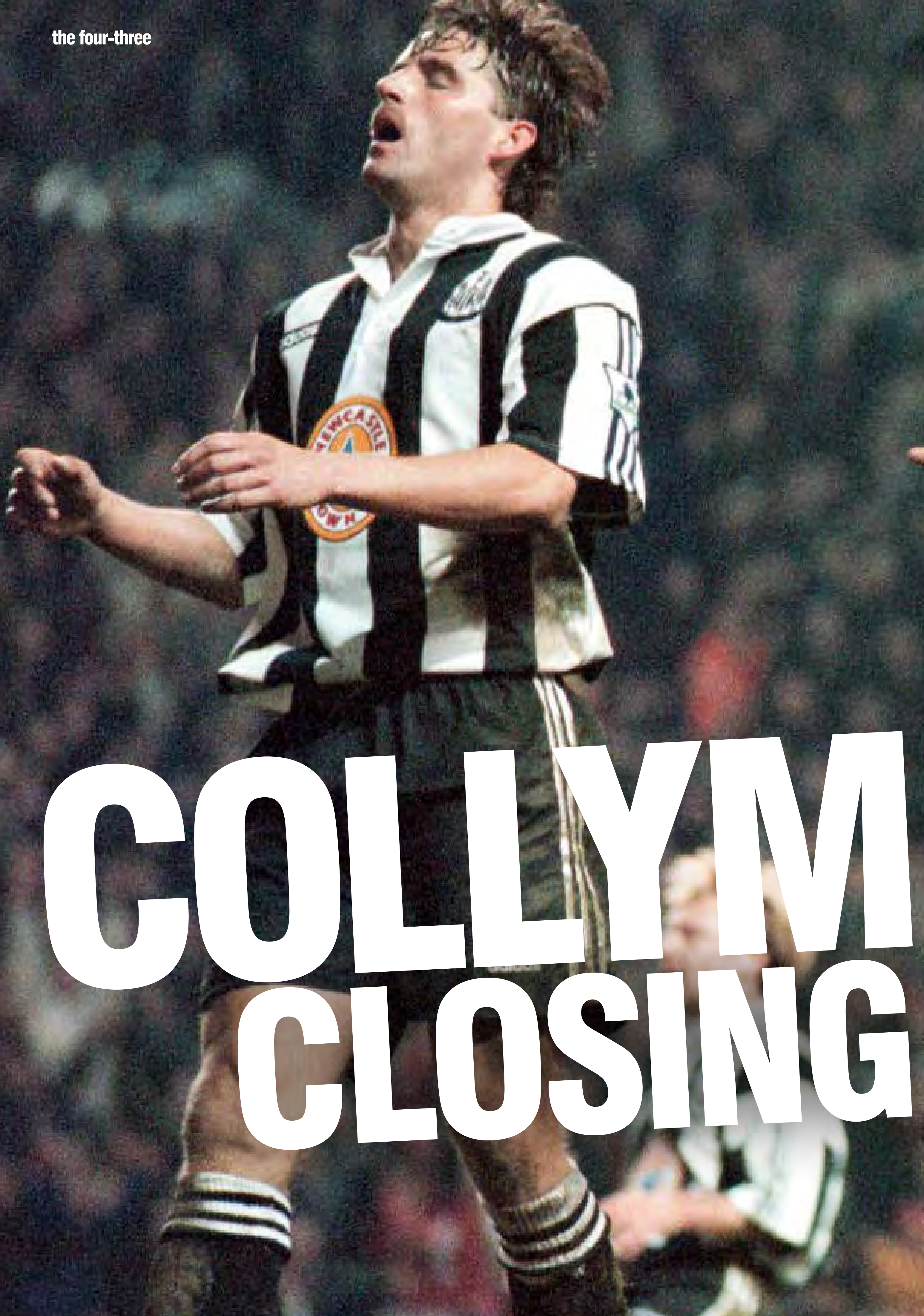
"It's the same challenge for Klopp: to awaken a sleeping giant"

WIN THE BOOK!

We've got five copies of *Jürgen Klopp: The Biography* to give away. Written by Elmar Neveling and published by Ebury Press, it's the definitive story of his footballing journey. For a chance to win a copy, just answer the following question and send your entry, including your name, address and contact number to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com and put KLOPP BOOK COMPO in the title bar. We'll pick the winners at random and announce them in a future issue. Closing date: Friday 1 April 2016.

Near which major German city was Klopp born: (a) Dusseldorf (b) Frankfurt (c) Stuttgart.





COLLYM CLOSING



If you were at Anfield on the night of 3 April 1996 you'll remember it like yesterday. If you saw it on Sky Sports at home or down the pub you'll have felt just as emotionally drained. And even if you weren't born, or were too young to take it in, you'll have seen the re-runs of arguably the greatest Premier League match of all time. Liverpool 4 Newcastle United 3. A night of engrossing, enthralling high-drama that ultimately had a crucial impact on the title race and left Anfield rocking so loudly they could feel the reverberations on the Tyne Bridge. It's now 20 years since Stan Collymore broke Toon Army hearts. Strap yourself in as we look back at how Sky commentators Martin Tyler and Andy Gray called it. And that thing your arms are doing? They call it goosebumps...

ORE INNN!

Two decades ago Anfield witnessed one of the most incredible matches in its history

1-0





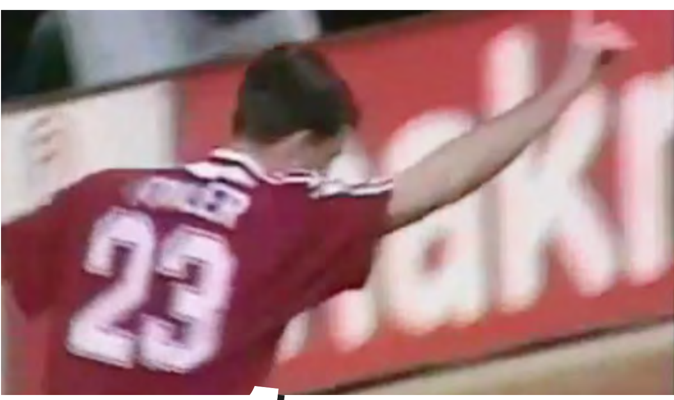
Fowler (2 mins)

MARTIN TYLER: "Just how much will the [FA Cup] semi-final and the general sense of Liverpool euphoria have taken out of Roy Evans' men? The manager certainly is trying to restore the right sort of belief in his players… and they've produced the classic start! Who's got it? You can guess it! It's Robbie Fowler inside two minutes and Newcastle are behind to Liverpool's first attack!"











1-1

Ferdinand (10 mins) **MT:** "Asprilla has been back to Colombia for an international since he last played for Newcastle. Here he is, past Ruddock. Ferdinand turns, and scores!" **ANDY GRAY:** "What skill from the Colombian, what brilliant ability. And that's why Kevin Keegan has invested in him."









2-1







Two-one
Ginola (14 mins)

MT: "Steve Watson helped out by Rob Lee. Ferdinand. That's great play in the control and pass for Ginola. He's run beyond McAteeeeeer! Two-one to Newcastle! David Ginola!"

Fowler (55 mins)
MT: "McAteer… McManaman… We'll see how Newcastle can defend here. FOWLERRRR!!! Brilliant Liverpool goal by a brilliant young talent! His second. Liverpool's second. Newcastle ripped apart!"

2-2

Asprilla (57 mins)
MT: "That's terrific play from Beardsley… Newcastle respond the only way they know how with brilliant play of their own! Asprilla! Rob Lee curled it through for him. Newcastle lead again!"

3-2



3-3

Collymore (68 mins) **MT:** "McAteer. That's a wicked ball... COLLYMORE! Liverpool's quality is there again and Newcastle's prayers might not yet have been answered here at Anfield!"



4-3

Collymore (90 mins)

MT: “Barnes… Andy hanging on for man-of-the-match. Barnes. Rush. Barnes. Still John Barnes. Collymore closing INNNNNNNNNN! Liverpool lead in stoppage time! Kevin Keegan hangs his head – he is devastated!” **AG:** “What an incredible finish to an incredible night’s football – just how do you put words to what we have seen tonight?”

ART& SOUL

Brazilian ace Roberto Firmino talks goals, assists and inspiring managers…and explains those engravings

"Left…right…high over the bar," says Roberto Firmino with a large grin, while using his hands to illustrate the various directions of some wayward shooting.

The skilful Brazilian is referring to early in his career when he started practising with his weaker foot. "I'm right-footed. So when I was first trying to use my left [foot] it was difficult. I wasn't the best. Shots would often go off-target. I continued to work each day to get better and better. Then, when you start to see some improvements, it becomes easier and you are encouraged to keep going. You just need time."

Those hours on the training field have certainly paid dividends: remember his left-footed drive against the woodwork during our home league game with West Ham earlier this season? When Firmino shoots now it is difficult to tell





which is his preferred side, such is the power and accuracy he can generate from either foot.

The opening anecdote reveals a lot about our no11. Although he admits football came naturally to him – "I found that I could play well from a young age" he has told us previously – that innate ability has been backed up by sheer hard work, taking him from his hometown of Maceio in northeast Brazil to the Premier League while earning international caps along the way.

This dedication to improvement was cited by Hoffenheim sporting director Ernst Tanner as part of the reason for signing the then 19-year-old: "I watched him training with Figueirense and it was strange because during some training exercises he would just, without any apparent reason, just fold… But instead of making a big meal out of it and getting angry, he listened carefully to his coach and learned from what he had done wrong. That impressed me."

"My right arm has tattoos about my family, the left is a variety"

Such resilience and strength-of-character has been evident throughout his career already: from leaving home at 16 to moving to southern Brazil to making the leap to Europe three years later where he arrived to find it was snowing in Germany and temperatures were touching a bone-chilling minus-10.

Having dealt with all that and eventually thrived meant he was never concerned about the process of adapting to the English game this season. "At the beginning it was difficult, especially the first and second month," he admits. "I think that's normal when you move to another country. You have to get used to the the lifestyle. My family have been to visit, so that helps. They like it here. But of course they can't stay. They have work and my sister has to study."

Family is something that Firmino holds dear, as demonstrated by the numerous tattoos he has. "Everything on my right arm represents or relates to my mum and dad or my sister [Roberta]. 2014 [engraved on his right hand] is the year my daughter Valentina was born. She's 15 months old now and is the best thing that's happened in my life, the best thing that God has given me. When I come home and a game hasn't gone well she always has a smile and a hug for me. I have another baby on the way, too, so I might have to get another tattoo soon.

"On the left arm I have a variety of stuff. There is no single idea or subject. On my neck the tattoo means 'God'."

Alongside learning about a different culture when you arrive on these




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"The game here is physical but as a striker you prepare for it"

shores is the task of finding your feet in another type of football. Doing so wasn't a new process. "In Brazil the football is very different, there is almost no contact. Here is similar to the Bundesliga, but it's even more physical when people tackle. As an attacker you have to be prepared for that because people will always try to stop you. I am starting to feel more settled now."

And with feeling more at home the Brazilian has been able to make the type of impact on the pitch for which he was bought. His stats from the early weeks of 2016 prove as much, netting five goals and providing assists for Jordan Henderson at Norwich City, Adam Lallana versus Sunderland and Emre Can against Aston Villa.

Some of those efforts came while playing as a striker or 'false nine' in Jürgen Klopp's setup. While he didn't arrive as a striker, Firmino has no difficulty operating in such a role accoridng to the boss: "He is a complete offensive player. He can play each position. I know him very well from Germany so he does not have to show something special to me because I know everything about him and his qualities."

Roberto is quick to return the compliment: the Brazilian was well-aware of the manager's qualities after facing his Borussia Dortmund side on a number of occasions during his time in Germany. "Hoffenheim were a small club, so playing against the manager's Dortmund team was hard because they were good at keeping possession and also good at counter attacking. But I have scored against them and we won so the manager had seen me before."

And although the pair have only been on the same side for six months, Firmino already declares the German as "the best manager I've worked with. I don't say that because he picks me all of the time. It's because of his mentality and his personality. He gives confidence to all of the players. He knows what your potential is, so he always says just one or two words to give you confidence and show trust. That's important for players. I think everybody likes working with him and we are all improving because of him."

Firmino had previously filled the same forward role for the national team and insists that where he starts on the

Words: John Hynes



field isn't important once he is involved. "I enjoy playing as a striker. I am there to help the team and am happy as long as I am playing. It is another challenge. I am playing in this position and I am well-prepared for it."

If his neat finish at the Etihad back in November was the culmination of a superb team move, his most spectacular goal at the time of writing was the curling, dipping shot from outside the box that bamboozled Arsenal's Petr Cech before finishing high in the Anfield Road net in January.

"For obvious reasons, that is my favourite goal so far. Seeing the ball go in like that is great, but it doesn't matter how it goes in once it does."

That fine right-footed strike was one of two goals he registered against the Londoners on a spectacular night, and he was inches away from a first half hat-trick when another shot from distance clipped the top of the crossbar. Ten days after that pulsating 3-3 clash there was the nine-goal cracker at Carrow Road. Those games are typical of the open encounters the Premier League often throws up. "It's crazy football. I knew it was like this when I came here and it was part of the reason why I wanted to move to the Premier League because it is so exciting. I really enjoy it."

Playing a major part in those unforgettable encounters was enough to earn him January's PFA Fans' Player of the Month award. His efforts also won praise from ex-LFC skipper Phil Thompson, who declared on Sky Sports' Soccer Saturday: "He possesses more pace than you think. As Luis Suarez could do, he scores goals, but he's a provider as well. This boy has been absolutely terrific and has probably nailed himself, on the attacking side of things, as the first name on the team sheet."

Roberto's reaction to such accolades? "Of course it's pleasing to get an award or hear nice words about me. But it doesn't mean I can stop working hard. I always have to continue doing that."

It's an approach that has already taken him far. So why change now?

"We all like working with Jürgen Klopp, he knows what our potential is"


Cold night at Melwood – but loving his football



Euro action v Augsburg

Megged by the manager!

Ahead of Liverpool's UEFA Europa League first leg with Augsburg it was Roberto's turn to be nutmegged…by Jürgen Klopp! The Reds boss cheekily – and rather expertly – passed the ball through the Brazilian's legs as the players trained at the WWK Arena in Bavaria.



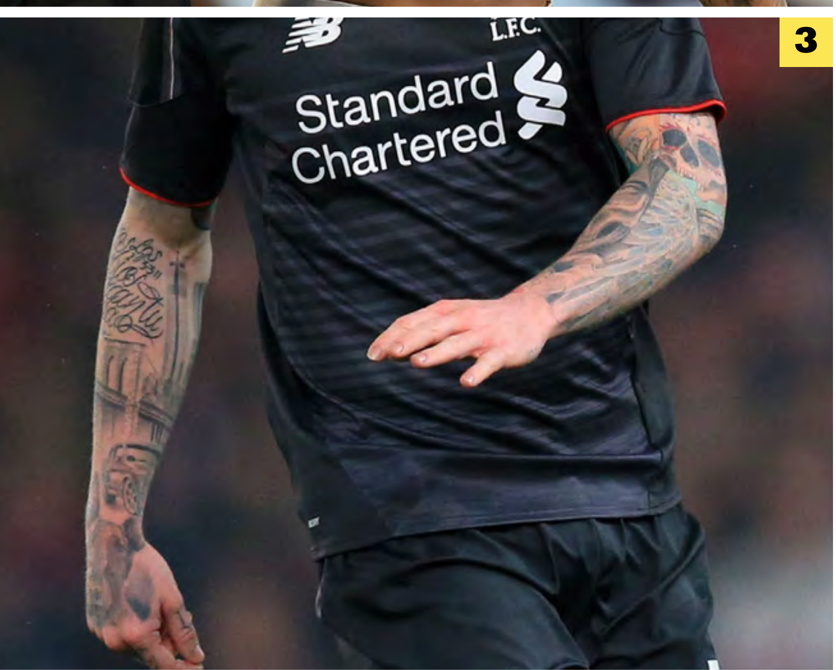


Whose tatt?

Can you identify these current Liverpool stars by some close-ups from their respective tattoos?













ANSWERS: 1. Clyne **2.**Coutinho **3.**Moreno **4.**Skrtel **5.**Lallana **6.**Ings



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BE IN THAT 7

is the most famous shirt number in LFC history and here's what you need to know about current wearer James Milner

FORTY SIX

appearances were made by Milner at Under-21 level for England – a national record

NINE

days before his 17th birthday in 2002, James scored for Leeds United at Sunderland to become, at the time, the youngest ever Premier League goalscorer

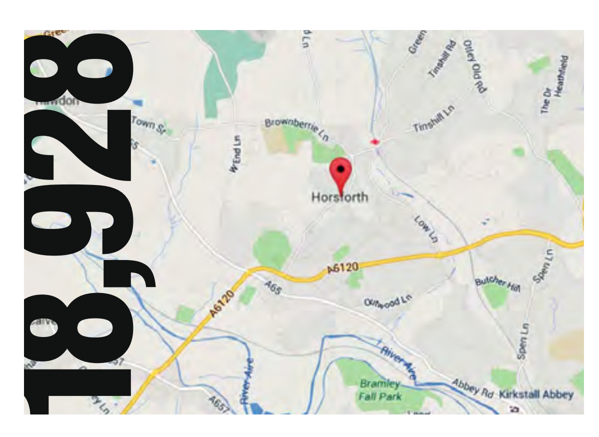
44,102

were in attendance at Anfield when James made his Liverpool home debut against Bournemouth last August

1,362

baby girls were named Holly in 2014 including James and wife Amy's daughter. Son Zach was born in 2015

NUMBER



people live in the Yorskhire town of Horsforth, near Leeds, where James went to school and played for Westbrook Lane Primary School

3.39

The length in minutes of Shakin' Stevens' Merry Christmas Everyone, the UK singles chart's number one when Milner was born on January 4 1985

487,827

is the number of followers that parody Twitter account Boring James Milner (@BoringMilner) had on the weekend before the Capital One Cup final





consecutive Premier League seasons have been played in which Milner has scored at least once, his current tally standing at 42

13

games played by James as an opponent at Anfield and it was an unlucky number for him – he lost 10 times and won only once





times James has skippered Liverpool so far during his first season here, more times than legendary number sevens Kenny Dalglish (13), Luis Suarez (4) and Kevin Keegan (2)



was the year when James was voted as PFA Young Player of the Year during his time with Aston Villa

91 LOCKS

are situated on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which stretches for 127 miles between Milner's home city and his current one



LIVERPOOL LADIES RELOADED

As a new-look Liverpool Ladies countdown to the 2016 season, manager Scott Rogers introduces his revamped squad

The new-look Liverpool Ladies squad

1 SIOBHAN CHAMBERLAIN



Position: Goalkeeper **Age:** 32 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Arsenal (2016)
Sio's a really experienced professional. She's played in numerous big tournaments and understands the game really well. She's a really good shot-stopper and is very good with her feet too so she will be a big part of our game in retaining possession too.

3 MARTHA HARRIS



Position: Full-back **Age:** 21 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Lincoln (2014)
In my opinion, Martha will become one of the country's best right-backs. She's technically good, she's athletic and gets up and down the football pitch very well. She's also a good one-versus-one defender and is eager to learn and improve.

4 MANDY VAN DEN BERG



Position: Centre-back **Age:** 25 **Nationality:** Dutch
Signed from: Lillestrom (2016)
The Dutch captain, Mandy brings a lot of experience having played in a lot of big tournaments, including the World Cup. Technically flawless with a great left foot, she reads the game well, defends on the front-foot and her vision to play out from the back is fantastic.





Position: Centre-back **Age:** 24 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Chelsea (2012)
Gem's our leader. At 24, she's still learning the game but is technically very good and sets the standards very high. In terms of defending, I think she's one of the best in the country. It's fantastic to have her as our captain. She is a great role model and an inspiration to the other girls.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 24 **Nationality:** Welsh
Signed from: Bristol Academy (2016)
Soph is probably one of the most under-rated players in the WSL. Technically she's really good with left and right foot, she breaks up play well and is a fantastic midfielder who again brings a lot of experience as captain of the Welsh national team. I'm pretty certain that she'll be a standout player in the WSL this year.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 26 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Chelsea (2013)
Kate has been here two-and-a-half years and we're trying to mould her into a midfielder. She has helped us in different positions but now we're trying to educate her in midfield as she's very intelligent and understands football. Technically, she's good and will run through brick walls and I needed a player like that in the squad.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 25 **Nationality:** English
Loaned from: Chelsea (2016)
An attacking midfielder who gets forward, Coombsy is another ball-player with great vision. She loves to pass the ball and has a great strike on her. She needed more game-time as she wasn't a regular starter at Chelsea and I think she will be another player who will make a big impact in the WSL this season.



Position: Forward **Age:** 26 **Nationality:** Swedish
Signed from: Lillestrom (2016)
The princess! She's very charismatic and knows what she wants. She brings a really good personality with her. Technically good, she plays with a lot of physicality and some of her finishing is unbelievable. We're aiming to get her back into the Swedish national team so we're doing a lot of work with her and she's getting there.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 20 **Nationality:** Scottish
Signed from: Bristol Academy (2016)
Caz is another I'm tipping to stand out in the WSL this year. Her left foot is one of the best I've ever seen and she's got some strike on her too. She has good vision, is an excellent passer, is quick, strong and athletic and also experienced through her international football. She is a very good player and will be a surprise to people.



Position: Winger **Age:** 23 **Nationality:** Dutch
Signed from: FC Twente (2016)
A very tricky winger, Shanice is another Dutch international who is very experienced having played at World Cups – I think you're starting to see the pattern in terms of the types of player we have recruited! She's good technically, agile and very, very quick.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 22 **Nationality:** New Zealand **Signed from:** University of California (2015)
Rosie is a no10 midfielder and also has a wealth of experience for someone of such a young age. She's technically strong and plays well between the lines. She's still got a lot to learn but we're lucky to have her.



Position: Midfielder **Age:** 20 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Manchester United CoE (2013)
Another no10 who has looked very sharp in pre-season. Technically she's very good with both feet and her touch is excellent. She has great vision, has the ability to see a pass that other players can't and she can finish in the final third.


Meeting Yarona Ladies in Soweto



Position: Forward **Age:** 18 **Nationality:** English
Graduated from: Development Squad (2015)
Mollie is a young no9. She's an up-and-coming forward who we are hoping will learn a lot from Emma Lundh. A strong technical player, there is a lot for her to improve on certain aspects of her game but she works unbelievably hard and I think she will go on to become an established WSL player in a few years' time.



Position: Full-back **Age:** 22 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Notts County (2016)
England left-back and a very talented player. She's a Scouser, a Liverpool fan and a tough girl who will run through brick walls for us. Technically she's excellent and a real danger from free-kicks and set plays. Alex can pass a ball as as well as anyone in this league.



Position: Goalkeeper **Age:** 23 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: Preston (2011)
Gibbo has worked hard and earned the right to stay on and will push Siobhan for the goalkeeping slot. She's a good shot-stopper is very good technically with her feet. She is still a young keeper and has a lot to learn but we are happy to have her with us.



Position: Full-back **Age:** 17 **Nationality:** English
Graduated from: Development Squad (2015)
A young left-back, Maz had a lot of pressure put on her last year with the injuries we had. She is going to learn a lot off Alex Greenwood. She is technically very good, quick and athletic and is very good with her deliveries in the final third so she's potentially one for the future.



Position: Winger **Age:** 20 **Nationality:** English
Graduated from: Development Squad (2014)
Ash played a lot last year with the injuries that we had. Her delivery in the final third has improved and we will keep working on it. She will be a threat to anyone with her speed. She is a bright-girl, picks things up quite easily in training and also works extremely hard.



Position: Winger **Age:** 27 **Nationality:** Welsh
Signed from: Manchester City (2016)
What a character! Tash has a great personality and brings a lot off the field as well as on it where she is a very good player. She's very, very quick, has international experience and can play on the left or the right. We're very lucky to have her.



Position: Full-back **Age:** 22 **Nationality:** English
Signed from: North Carolina Tar Heels (2015)
Satara brings a lot to the team both on and off the field. We're going to tweak her position as I didn't think she was a centre-back last year and we will be looking at her as a right-back. She's athletic, a tough tackler and has been working extremely hard to develop.



SCOTT'S SQUAD ALL-SET

Ladies manager Rogers feeling upbeat ahead of the 2016 FA WSL kick-off

Liverpool Ladies manager Scott Rogers couldn't be happier with his side's transfer business ahead of the new FA WSL season.

As he prepares for his first campaign in charge of the Reds, he admits: "If Carlsberg did transfer windows, they'd have given me this one!

"I'm over the moon with it. We managed to secure every target that we had. A number of the players we have recruited could have gone to various other clubs but they chose to come and play for Liverpool. The big challenge now is getting them to gel because we have brought in nine new players, but looking at it already some of the football is like a different world from last year and that was the main thing we wanted to put in place."

"I think if Carlsberg did transfer windows they'd have given me this one!"

With the new-look squad complete, Rogers is optimistic about what the 2016 season may bring.

"I'm really excited because the group has so much potential. The way we've looked at it and the way we've put it together is that we see it as a two-year project. Because the league is so small you can't say it's a one-year project.

"We've brought this group in for two years and if we can keep the major core of them together for that time then I think that by the end of it we'll be successful again. That's the aim. All the players we have brought in are young – all the outfield players are in their twenties – but they have a lot of experience which means that if we can keep them together and they can gel then we should have a good base for doing well.

"It just depends how quickly they can click. They are showing good signs but we will see. We've got a very good group of players this year and I think we will be fine. There's no pressure to achieve this season and the players know that but at the same time we are Liverpool and we want to win things."

Off the field there have been changes too with Rogers recruiting an assistant following his own step-up from the number two role as well as a new sports scientist.

"We talk about players on the pitch but to recruit two members of staff like Phil Backhouse and Alan Jordan is also very important for us," he explains.

"Phil will be my assistant and he is a very experienced coach. I've known him for a few years and although I haven't really worked with him before we get on really well and have a similar sort of vision in terms of football. He understands the game well and has a great manner about him. He's great to have around, calms me down when I need it and he knows how I work.

"We have also brought in Alan Jordan from Everton who is a massive signing for us in the sports science department. Alan has come in and looked at things and put his own little stamp on it already and I'm delighted with the work he's done so far. I'm happy with the staff – in that regard I believe we are in a very good place."

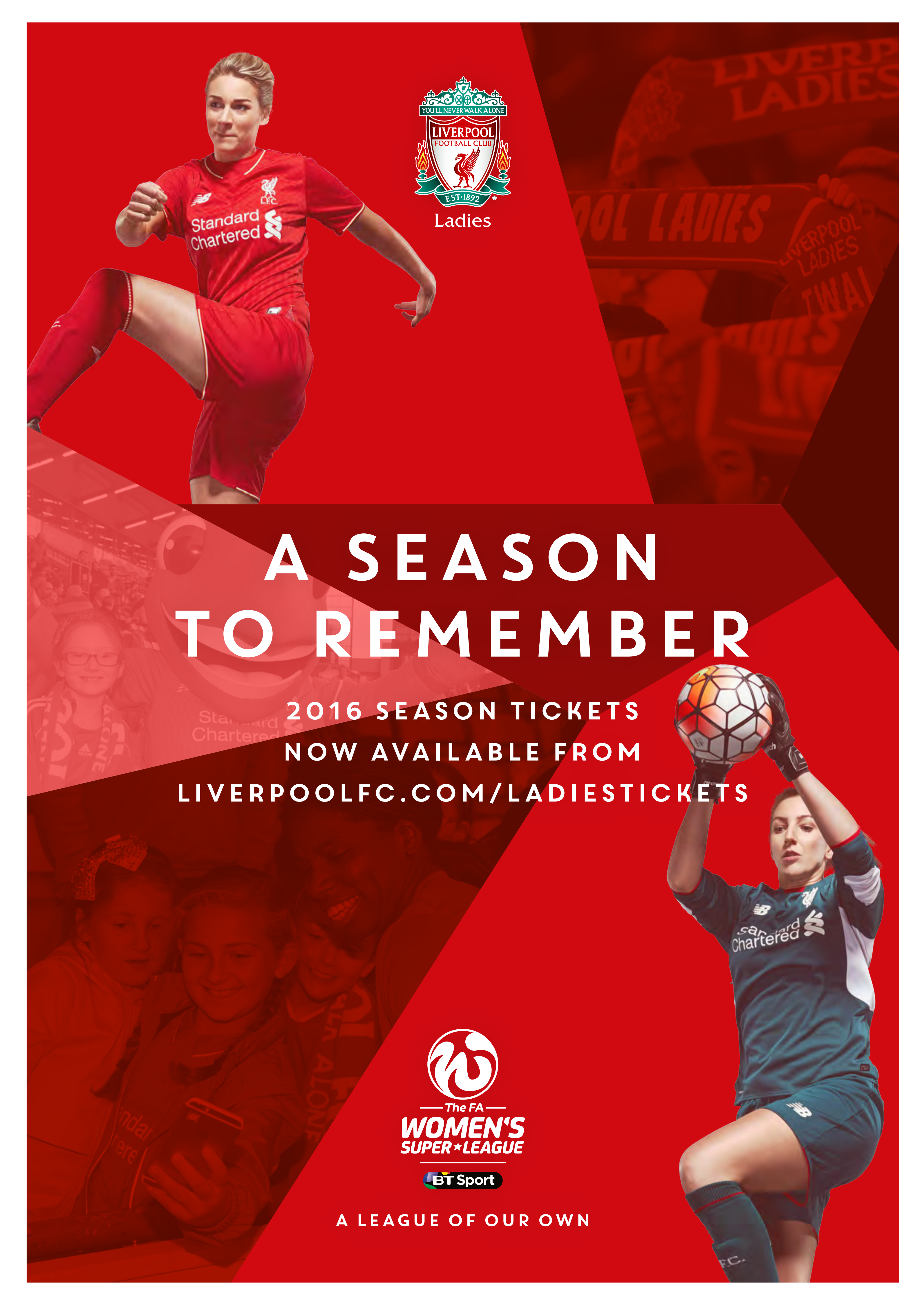


Katie Zelem celebrates the winner in the South African tour game against Yarona Ladies

LADIES 2016 FIXTURES

MARCH		
20	MAN CITY (FAC 5)	H
23	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H
28	Chelsea	A
APRIL		
3	FA Cup 6	TBC
17	FA Cup SF	TBC
23	SUNDERLAND	H
27	CHELSEA	H
MAY		
2	Notts County	A
7/8	Continental Cup Pre	TBC
14	FA Cup final	Wembley
18	Sunderland	A
25	MAN CITY	H
JUNE		
26	Man City	A
JULY		
2/3	Continental Cup R1	TBC
9	READING	H
16	NOTTS COUNTY	H
31	Arsenal	A
AUGUST		
6/7	Continental Cup QF	TBC
27	DONCASTER RB	H
SEPTEMBER		
1	Reading	A
3/4	Continental Cup SF	TBC
25	Birmingham City	A
OCTOBER		
1/2	Continental Cup final	TBC
9	Doncaster RB	A
NOVEMBER		
5/6	ARSENAL	H

Home games in caps; all fixtures subject to change



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IGoR
Igor Biscan:
fan favourite,
midfield maverick,
titan of Turin,
and now back
playing with
LFC Legends



At the start of 2016 a Liverpool FC Legends side featuring Steven Gerrard, Ian Rush, Jamie Carragher and Luis Garcia defeated their Australian counterparts by a 4-0 margin in Sydney.

The goals Down Under came courtesy of Garcia (2), Rush and John Aldridge, but the fixture also saw some less-heralded former Reds take to the field, Igor Biscan among them. Although never a permanent fixture during his time at Anfield between December 2000 and July 2005, the Croatian midfielder did enjoy some memorable moments. The majority came during the 2004/05 season when he found a new lease of life under Rafael Benitez and the fitness regime of Pako Ayesteran.

Previously, despite being bought as a central midfielder by Gerard Houllier (who was said to have described him as "the Croatian Zidane" and beaten off competition from Juventus, Barcelona, Ajax and AC Milan to get his man), Biscan had filled a variety of roles such as full-back and alongside Sami Hyypia in the centre of defence when Stephane Henchoz was absent.

Under the new manager, though, Igor enjoyed more game-time back in the middle of the park, with glimpses of the talent that had attracted Liverpool scouts during the two years they reportedly spent monitoring him.

An October 2004 thriller at Fulham was the first such moment. With the Reds trailing 2-0 at half-time, a remarkable comeback was capped by Igor in the final minute, side-footing high into the net from the edge of the box to seal a 4-2 victory. The only one more stunned than the away fans seemed to be the player himself! He looked slightly bemused as his team-mates mobbed him to mark only his second goal for the club.

The following month Liverpool travelled to the Riazor Stadium in northwest Spain to face Deportivo La Coruna in their fourth Champions League group game. Sitting on four points, having drawn with Depor at home, a win was imperative if they were to qualify – and achieving it was made even harder by the absence of talisman Steven Gerrard.

A drab game contained fleeting glimpses of quality. The most important came from Biscan as he pounced on a loose ball in midfield, evaded three challenges, drove forward and released the overlapping John Arne Riise whose low cross was bundled into his own net by Jorge Andrade for the only goal. A vital result had been earned with 'Eeeegor', as the Kop called him, playing a part.

His performance led *The Daily Telegraph* to comment: 'Biscan is a familiar sight on Liverpool's European trips, a lonely and peripheral-looking figure who, with the knot of his club tie

"Biscan's display in Coruna rescued Rafa's Champions League"

somewhere south of his collar, often seems to be as much at a loss to explain his presence in England as the team who signed him four years ago.

'But as the tall Croatian ascended the escalator at La Coruna airport yesterday, he was presented with shirts to sign rather than the backs of his team-mates after a performance in Spain on Wednesday that might have rescued Rafael Benitez's Champions League ambitions. That it was the 25-year-old who led the way will have given Liverpool fans new hope that their coach can turn water into rioja.'

Among those words it is perhaps the description of Igor's demeanour that stands out. He quite often did look a little forlorn, even on a football field. There was almost a haphazard nature to him, as he'd also displayed against Depor when he collided with colleague Chris Kirkland and knocked him out cold – although the goalkeeper was quick to laugh it off and praise Biscan's efforts on the evening. "He was up and down the pitch, breaking things



Left to right in Oz: Garcia, Aurelio, McAllister, Smicer, Berger, Biscan and Westerveld

Biscan: brilliant in Turin's Stadio Dell'Alpi in April 2005

up. I thought he had a great game. Xabi [Alonso] is world-class. He didn't play but Igor came in and had a great game. All credit to him for that. In training he's always like that. The fans give him a bit of stick but he takes it in good humour. With a display like that a lot of people will get on his side."

Biscan was a former Dinamo Zagreb skipper and he'd captained his national side. But the transition from the Croatian to Premier League was a difficult one. Upon his arrival he admitted as much to the matchday programme in January 2001: "I know I must show what I am capable of. "It's not going to be easy but I intend to show the people who spent a lot of money on me that I am a good player." He conceded: "If young Croatians go abroad too early, they sometimes get lost and life becomes difficult for them."

Those words proved to be prophetic. "The step-up was too big for me, and it took one year, maybe two, before I reached the level and the expectations of the fans," he told *The Guardian* in 2008. "Everything is quicker, you have to be much stronger, you don't have time or space on the ball."

During his first half-season in England, Jan-May 2001, he featured 21 times as the cup treble and Champions League qualification was secured by Houllier's squad. Biscan's standout contribution was probably a goal in the League Cup semi-final against Crystal Palace at Anfield after charging through the visitors' defence. There was also a red card in the 'Gary Mac derby' at Goodison Park.

By the middle of the next campaign, 2001/02, he was struggling to earn a place in the side ahead of Gerrard, Hamann, Murphy and McAllister. Restrictions on non-EC players didn't help and he only made ten appearances that term and 13 the next. Season 2003/04, Houllier's last in charge, surprisingly saw Biscan become almost a regular as he featured 39 times, often lining up in the centre of the defence.

The experiment halted under Benitez, who wanted more reliability in such a crucial position. He decided Biscan should concentrate on being a midfielder again and gave him chances to do so after it had seemed he might be sold. Igor followed up his contribution against Deportivo with another vital input on the European stage, jinking past two Bayer Leverkusen men to release Luis Garcia for the opener in the last-16 first leg at Anfield in February 2005.

Of the half-a-dozen knockout games on the way to Istanbul, he'd start all of them. A combination of injuries and suspension for Alonso and Gerrard presented him with chances to feature against Bayer, Juventus – against whom he was imperious in the away leg – then Chelsea. With Alonso and Gerrard back for the final it meant Biscan was on the bench in Turkey.

That summer he departed for Panathinaikos in Greece before returning to hometown club Dinamo Zagreb in 2007, where he retired five years later after injuries had taken their toll. Just before Christmas last year it was announced that he had taken a coaching role with NK Rudes in the Croatian second division.

Having only ever displayed fleeting glimpses of his ability in a red shirt it might be over-stretching it to describe Igor as a legend. What nobody can deny is he played a major part in helping the Reds win their most recent European Cup. And, for that, he will always be very fondly remembered.



Words: John Hynes

KING ARTHUR

He was the former Liverpool FC captain who commanded a record transfer fee – now a century later he's been commemorated

One of Liverpool FC's best players in the formative years of the club, who also ran a famous public house near the ground, has been commemorated with a special plaque at his resting place in Anfield Cemetery.

Arthur Goddard was a fantastic servant to Liverpool and a regular scorer from his position on the wing for a decade-and-a-half at the start of the 20th century. In later years he managed the Oakfield Hotel on the road of the same name in Anfield. Now, following research by Jonny Stokkeland of the Liverpool FC Official Archives, his contribution to the club has been recognised.

"I knew that Arthur had died in Kirkby in May 1956 and was probably buried at Anfield Cemetery," explains Jonny. "I contacted [historian and researcher] Bob Halliday at the cemetery and he was able to find the plot where Arthur was laid to rest. The new plaque states the dates of Arthur's birth and death, along with the dates that he played for Liverpool prior to the First World War."

Born in Heaton Norris (now part of Greater Manchester) on 14 June 1878, Goddard had first played for a team called Christ Church then Stockport, at the time a Lancashire League Club. He quickly showed his potential by scoring seven times in a friendly for the latter's reserves against Prestwich. His abilities came to the notice of Glossop when they played cup matches against Stockport and they signed him during their only season in the Football League's top flight in 1899. He continued to

"The new plaque states the dates that Arthur played for Liverpool"



LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB,
SEPTEMBER, 1910.

Back Row—G. Fleming *(Assist. Trainer)* J. McDonald, R. Malone, H. J. Uren, E. Longworth, S. Gilligan, J. Dillon, J. Brough.
Second Row—T. Watson *(Secretary)* T. Chorlton, J. Bradley, A. R. Beeby, D. McKinlay, R. S. Crawford, J. Harrop, S. Hignett, R. S. Robinson, J. McConnell, W. Connell *(Trainer)*.
Third Row—S. Hardy, T. Rogers, J. M. Stewart, W. P. Dunlop, A. Goddard *(Captain)* R. Orr *(Vice-Capt.)*, A. West, J. Speakman, H. Leavey.
Front Row—S. Bowyer, J. Parkinson, E. Peake.

Fifth from left in the front seated row, 1910

excel and joined Liverpool, then in the second tier, for a record transfer fee of £460 in February 1902.

The *Manchester Evening News* reported: “That Liverpool are seriously alarmed by their lowly and unfavourable position in the league is shown by the payment of one of the largest transfers fees on record for Arthur Goddard, the brilliant outside-right of Glossop. It is some weeks since negotiations were first opened up with [manager] Mr Tom Watson, and both at that time and since it is no secret that at least four other prominent clubs made overtures to Mr Oliver [of Glossop] and his fellow directors. It was thought at one time that it would end in Goddard going to Nottingham Forest, but the shrewd gentlemen who manage the Liverpool club clinched the matter.”

Arthur was handed his debut at Wolverhampton on 8 March 1902 and that started a run of eleven successive appearances until the end of the season in which he scored twice. He established himself in the side over the next two seasons, missing only one league match in each and getting 18 goals.

His exciting playing style was captured in this description by the *Lancashire Evening Post*: “Goddard is a clever dribbler, beats a half-back very smartly, and centres with excellent judgment. He is also a good shot, and plays the game most intelligently. At first he does not look fast, but his long strides take him over the ground quickly, and as an all-round player he has large possibilities.”

“Goddard is a clever dribbler and beats a half-back very smartly”

In 1904/05 he won a Second Division championship medal. A year later he was part of the Liverpool team that won the top-flight title for the second time in its still-brief history, when he was the only ever-present in the side. Arthur continued to play consistently, averaging over 30 league appearances for the next seven years. His popularity at Anfield was captured by a *Liverpool Echo* sketch which featured the following verse: “A marvel at playing the ball, His opponents he beats one and all; He’s always so bright that as outside right, He is voted ‘the Daddy of all’.”

Goddard was appointed captain of the side in the 1909/10 season and led by example as Liverpool finished runners-up in the league, their best placing since winning the title four years earlier. In front of goal





The memorial for Arthur at Anfield Cemetery

"His status was shown by the fact that he was granted two benefit matches"

he also reached double-figures for the first time since 1903.

During season 1913/14, however, he lost his place after figuring in ten of the opening 11 fixtures. His contract was not renewed and he was given a free transfer to Cardiff City, but he returned to Liverpool as a wartime guest, making a further 49 appearances and scoring seven times.

In November 1915 he was in the Liverpool side that defeated Everton 4-1 in a Lancashire Section derby in front of 20,000 at Anfield. Fred Pagnam scored a hat-trick with Goddard also playing a starring role. In its match report the *Echo* stated: "The local 'derby' is now being talked over in the trenches. The Tommies will have some fierce arguments over the unexpected turn in events, and for the first time for sixteen years the Liverpool FC followers will be able to crow…

"Goddard's pertinacity and somewhat roving style brought him into the leading lights of the game. They call Goddard 'the old war horse'. But a man's as old as he feels, and Goddard can spend many a season yet as pivot of the team, and can subsequently turn his attention to the 'sleeping partner's' job which is the name I give to the outside-left position, a berth that does not call for anything but occasional sprints and centres and sometimes a shot."

Goddard was nearly 40 years old when he played and scored against Stockport in a 4-2 win on 20 April 1918. His status as one of the club's top players was further illustrated by the fact that he was granted two benefit matches: the league wins over Bolton in January 1908 and Preston in March 1914.

He later settled in the city and became a publican near Anfield, running the Oakfield Hotel which became a regular pre and post-match watering hole for Liverpool fans for over a century.

TIME TEAM

Four historians have been recognised for their contribution to research into the club's history. Jonny Stokkeland, George Rowlands, Eric Doig and Sveinung Egeland each received special plaques in acknowledgement of their exhaustive research for the LFC Official Archive. Jonny, who lives in Norway, is pictured here with George and Eric. He says: "It is a great honour to be rewarded for our history work by Liverpool FC."



Words: William Hughes

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"FOOTBALL IS INCREDIBLE"

Steven Caulker should know – the past few weeks with Liverpool FC have been little short of sensational for the on-loan defender

If Steven Caulker had taken a moment or two on New Year's Eve to contemplate what 2016 might bring, moving to Liverpool wouldn't have been uppermost in his thoughts.

Yet a frantic January off the pitch and some equally frenzied finishes on it saw the 24-year-old Londoner's landscape shift significantly. The centre-back started his campaign by reporting for pre-season training at QPR before swapping the Championship for the Premier League in late July when he joined Southampton on a season-long loan. However, with the central defensive partnership of Jose Fonte and Virgil van Dijk proving a fixture in the heart of the Saints backline, Steven found game-time on the South Coast limited.

He hadn't featured since lining up against a lethal Liverpool side in the Capital One Cup quarter-final in early December. So when he received a call from his agent in mid-January to explain that there was an option of cancelling his temporary switch and joining Liverpool on loan for the rest of the season instead, it's fair to say he jumped at the chance.

"The first week or two was a bit hectic and it was a really quick turnaround from playing in the reserves at Southampton to coming on to make my debut for Liverpool against Arsenal at Anfield," he recalls. "But I have really, really enjoyed the first few weeks here and I have settled in nicely."

Caulker cuts a relaxed figure as he chats ahead of a late-afternoon training session at Melwood. It is a dreary grey day in half-term week and dozens of young fans are gathered at the gates of the club's training complex hoping to catch a glimpse of their Liverpool favourites. The on-loan defender has been heartened by the warmth of people in the city since his arrival.

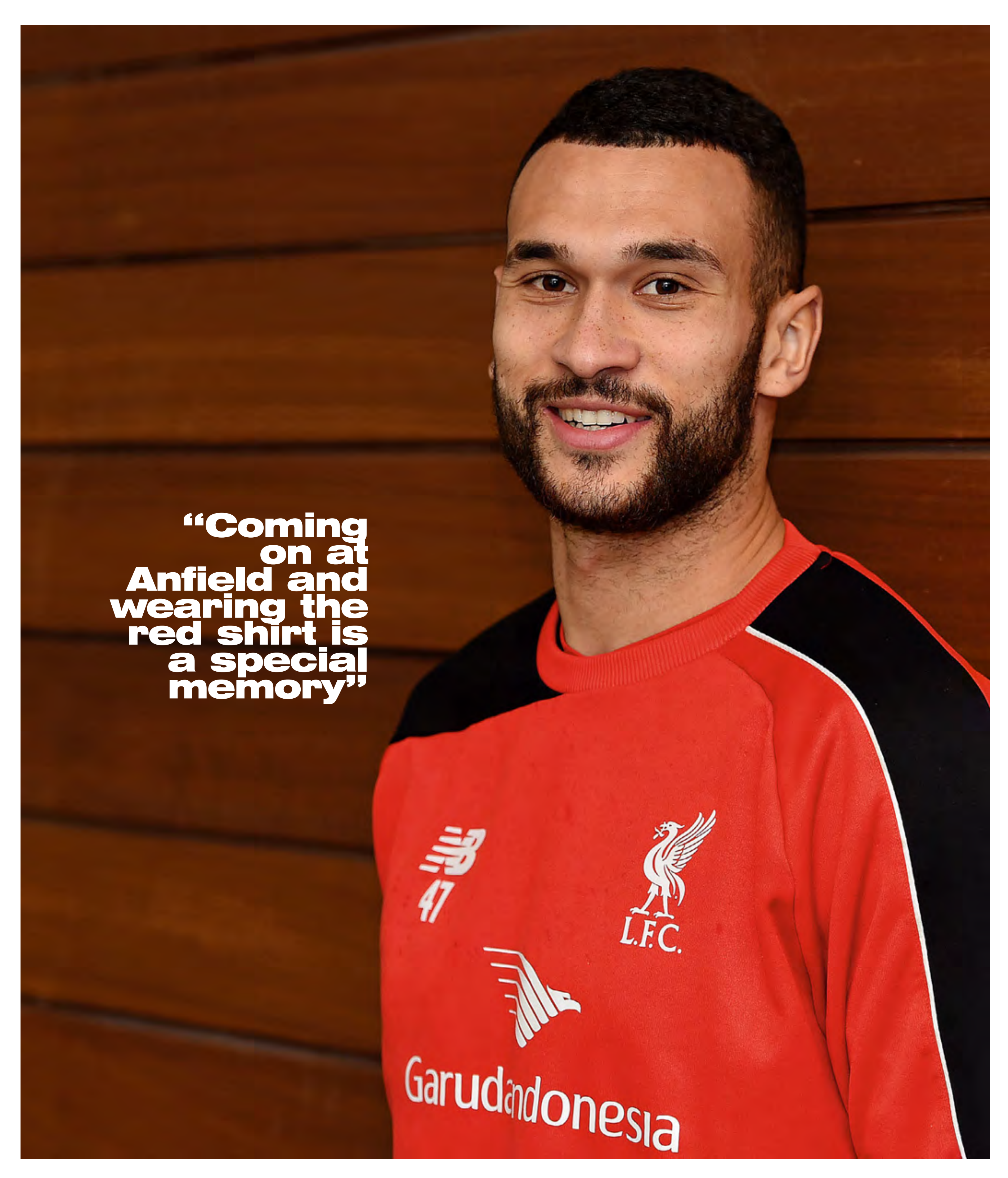
"I've been out to eat in one or two restaurants which has been nice although I haven't had much time to explore as we've been training pretty much every day since I arrived and the game-load has been heavy. But I've just had a chance to go for a few nice meals and have a quick look around the city. The buzz has been great from people and they have been really, really friendly so it's slightly different to London in that sense."

His welcome from team-mates also helped him settle into his new surroundings. "I have been here around six or seven weeks now and got to know the boys well and also meet the manager and understand what he wants from his players. Now it's about working hard and trying to earn a spot in the team.

"Of course, working with Jürgen Klopp was a big draw to coming here too. He's a very well-known manager and he looked fantastic to work for from seeing him on telly and it's no different in person. He's been great for myself and all the boys. The way he carries himself and the way he is around us helps us to feel at ease and so you feel really comfortable and enjoy working with him."

Caulker trained with the Reds for the first time barely 24 hours before the Premier League fixture with Arsenal and had a debut he will never forget. Liverpool trailed the Gunners 3-2 when he received the call to replace Adam Lallana for the final throes of the game

"I've only had a quick look at the city but the buzz from people has been great"



as the Reds chased an equaliser in front of the Kop. He admits to doing a double-take when the boss asked him to play as an auxiliary centre-forward. But his presence occupied Arsenal centre-back Per Mertesacker when Christian Benteke knocked the ball into Joe Allen's path for the 90th-minute equaliser.

"It was an exciting start. It came out of the blue, especially with going on upfront. I thought he [Klopp] was joking at first! But no, it was definitely a moment to treasure. Coming on at Anfield, wearing the Liverpool shirt and helping in some way for Joe to get that dramatic late equaliser is a special memory. So hopefully there will be many more to come. It was good for Joe too. I know him from our days together at Swansea. He's been here for many years now and he's a fantastic player. Liverpool saw that talent and snapped him up. Unfortunately he's been out injured recently but his talent is incredible."

Following another brief appearance off the bench against Manchester United, his next cameo came in the dramatic encounter at Norwich City. The Reds led 4-3 going into the final minute of normal-time when he was sent on to shore up the defence. But within 60 seconds Sebastien Bassong had equalised and so Caulker was pushed upfront as the Reds stepped up their search for a winner. In a remarkable denouement, the no19 fired in a shot which seemed


For Cardiff v Luis and Liverpool in 2014

goalbound until Canaries skipper Russell Martin made an important block. But in the melee that followed, the ball sat up for Adam Lallana to fire the ball home and clinch an unbelievable 5-4 triumph.

"That was a bit of a whirlwind couple of minutes," he says. "I've come on, they've scored and you feel rock-bottom. Then a minute later we're up the other end and, before you know it, 'Ads' has got his top off and we're celebrating a memorable victory! It was a whirlwind of emotion but thankfully it ended on a high so that was another great moment. I've enjoyed the minutes I've had on the pitch so far – the Man United [home] game was just a couple of minutes and I couldn't do much about it – but other than that it's been an enjoyable experience and I hope to have many more.

"Whichever position I am asked to play in, I'll be happy to do the best I can as I just want to make the most of my time here."

Another opportunity to gain some game-time may come in the Europa League with the tall defender named in the squad for the second phase of the tournament. He appeared for Tottenham in 2012/13, taking on Maribor, Lazio, Panathinaikos and Inter Milan. Indeed, he actually played in this season's competition for Southampton against Vitesse Arnhem and Midtjylland, but the tournament rules allow a player to represent one team in the qualifying rounds and another in the competition proper.

"I'll play wherever required, I want to make the most of my time here"

"It's another opportunity to play, depending on how the manager looks at it. The Augsburg games were my first times in the Europa League set-up with Liverpool so I wasn't sure what team he would want to put out. But if I get the chance then obviously I'm raring to go. I've been here almost two months training hard and waiting for an opportunity. If it comes in the Europa League then fantastic. If not then I'll keep going and hopefully the team can progress. For people in my position, it's a case of the more games the merrier as it will increase my chances of game-time and trying to impress.

"It is a massive competition and we've got every chance of winning it. There are still a lot of big teams left in it,

Action against West Ham


Training session

of course, but with the squad we have we will be confident. The tournament has risen in stature in the last few years and with the winners now qualifying for the Champions League, teams want to do well and progress as far as possible in it. Clubs want to win it and hopefully we can go all the way."

One competition the Reds have already gone all the way to the final in was the Capital One Cup. Caulker was cup-tied for the semi-final return against Stoke City having played for Southampton against Aston Villa and, of course, Liverpool in ties before Christmas. "Not being a part of the squad for the semi-final at Anfield was a frustration but it was exciting to see the boys get to Wembley. Of course I would have loved to have been a part if it but unfortunately I was on the other end of a battering in the quarter-final! Going to Wembley was a good day for the club and will make everyone determined to taste more finals hopefully with a different outcome.

"After we had won the semi-final, it gave everybody an extra-buzz about the place. I was in the crowd for the second leg against Stoke that day and just to witness the scenes and the atmosphere at the end with the penalties was the kind of thing that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. It was a good night."

After sitting out the FA Cup fourth-round replay at West Ham United with an injury, Steven was back on the bench to see Liverpool hit Aston Villa for six on Valentine's Day. "As I said, I've seen the other end of it in that League Cup quarter-final so I know just how good this team can be and also how good it will be. Once the manager has got his ideas firmly into it and has his team playing how he wants them to, I'm sure Liverpool will go and do great things.

"The Villa game was another example of how important Studge [Daniel Sturridge] and Phil [Coutinho] are to the side. As a team, I felt that result was coming because the performances have been good since I came here but we haven't always had the results that we have deserved. We did that afternoon."

Caulker hopes to play his part between now and the end of the season and insists he isn't looking too far beyond that. "Of course it would be great for me to earn the opportunity to move here permanently but for now it's just about concentrating on each day, each session and each game. I need to focus on that first before I think about what may happen beyond that. Of course if I earn the right to play and get a couple of games under my belt and potentially get the chance to make it permanent then I'd love that, but there's a lot of football to be played before the end of the season first.

"Being a part of it in the run-in would be the icing on the cake. Getting the move here itself was fantastic and to make my debut and wear the Liverpool shirt was a great honour. But if I can get as many games as possible and help the team push up the league then of course it will have been something special. Football is incredible like that. Leicester are top of the league and who would have thought that would happen? So while anything is mathematically possible we are going to keep working away for every point possible and see what comes."

"Being part of the run-in this season would be the icing on the cake for me"

The Olympian

Steven lined up alongside current team-mates Joe Allen and Daniel Sturridge at the 2012 London Olympics. The trio featured in all four of Great Britain's games which ended in a quarter-final exit to South Korea on penalties after Augsburg striker Ji Dong-won had seen his opening goal at the Millennium Stadium cancelled out by Aaron Ramsey. Caulker impressed throughout the tournament alongside Allen, who joined the Reds from Swansea City less than a week after that last-eight fixture. Sturridge scored in the group victories over UAE and Uruguay while ex-Red Craig Bellamy was on target in GB's opening game, a 1-1 draw with Senegal at Old Trafford.



Interview: William Hughes

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Didi Hamann

Defeat in a cup final can spur the side on to happier times

When Germany lost the World Cup final against Brazil in 2002 it took me a few months to get over it. I was still thinking about it when I returned for pre-season at Liverpool.

Obviously, a final such as that or the Champions League or FA Cup comes at the end of a long season and that's probably a big reason why losing it lingers in your mind. The League Cup is clearly different because of where it fits into the fixture schedule. When we lost in that game to Chelsea in 2005 it hurt, especially the nature of the defeat because we were so close to winning in normal time until Stevie scored an unfortunate own-goal.

But I don't remember us dwelling on it for too long afterwards because there were plenty more games to come. We had the league and Champions League. If anything, we used the pain of the League Cup result to make us more determined in Europe, and clearly it worked. Now this Liverpool team must try to do the same. If that's not enough to motivate the squad, there's also the major fact that some players are clearly playing for their futures at the club.

That's always the case when a new manager takes over and footballers are well aware of the fact. We all knew as much when Rafa Benitez took over from Gerard Houllier in 2004. He'll arrive with his own ideas and, sometimes, will already have certain individuals he'd like to bring in.

One player who Jürgen Klopp clearly wanted was Joel Matip from Schalke. I cover German football regularly and like what I've seen of the centre-back. He's obviously tall, but what stands out for me is his pace. You can easily imagine somebody like him fitting in to a Klopp side who want to press opponents high up the field. His speed would allow the defence to squeeze play near the halfway line without the danger of being caught out by players running in behind them. So in that way it sounds like he's an ideal signing.

"We used the pain to make us more determined in Europe"

Most managers want to start building their own side from the back first, and it looks like that's what Klopp will do too. How many players will he add this summer? It's hard to know. Maybe, he's seen something in some of those already there that he feels gives them a base to grow and improve from. But it would be a major shock if he doesn't bring in more of his own players in key roles.

The spine of a team is the most vital part. I would never dismiss one position as being less important than another, but you need to know that there is a core of players who will regularly be fit and performing at consistently high levels. That group is what success or failure is based upon.

Klopp obviously feels Matip can be one of those guys, and he might believe he needs to recruit a few more too. Convincing him otherwise is what the current players have to do between now and the end of the season. It means they have plenty to play for.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann



Feb 2005…

…May 2005



Neil Mellor

Anfield will be rocking for United in Europe. Now for Klopp's tactics…

I'm not a fan of UEFA's Europa League format – allowing teams that failed to qualify from their Champions League group into the knock-out stages devalues the competition – but it hasn't half set up a tasty last-16 clash between Liverpool and Manchester United.

I suspect it will feel like a two-legged domestic cup tie rather than a European one. The atmosphere is different during European games because fans travel from different countries. The Augsburg fans were very different to anything we normally see and that created a different vibe inside Anfield during the last round.

Anfield will, of course, be a throaty cauldron of noise when United are in town, but even though Louis van Gaal's side haven't struck fear into opponents this season I would have preferred to be playing the second leg at home. Not since 2010 have Liverpool progressed through a two-legged European tie when the first match has been at Anfield. That's a hurdle to overcome and it will be interesting to see how Jürgen Klopp approaches the home game tactically.

Ideally we want to avoid conceding any away-goals. Rafa Benitez, for instance, would always try to keep the first leg of a European game tight and win the tie in the second leg, but Klopp may well view things differently. Liverpool might go for it at Anfield to take some kind of advantage to Old Trafford. That said, our away record has been okay in the big games this season so we want to go into the second leg at least level.

It's a tricky tactical balancing act for the manager, but Liverpool are a better side when taking the game to their opponents. We saw that in the second half of the Capital One Cup final against Manchester City. We didn't ask enough questions of their keeper before the break but when we stepped things up after conceding we got our reward through Philippe Coutinho. Perhaps that will influence Klopp ahead of playing United.

"Whatever the boss decides I think he'll get it right v United"



Whatever he decides I believe the manager will get it right. A lot can change from when the tie is drawn to eventually taking place. Having key players available is paramount. We have seen this season the difference having them back can make.

Nobody should underestimate the magnitude of the tie. To progress, by knocking them out on their own turf, would create an eternal memory for Liverpool fans. I was at Old Trafford in 2014 when Luis Suarez ran them ragged and we won 3-0. It was one of the few times I've been there not wanting to hear the final whistle. We should've won by five or six and those type of memories never leave you.

When I was at Liverpool before we played United both Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher would make the other lads fully aware of how important it was to win. Local lads have that connection with the supporters and are instrumental in explaining it to new players or lads from other countries. Jon Flanagan isn't in the Europa League squad, but he will be an important presence to ensure the entire squad realise that Liverpool v United games can potentially define careers. Ask Danny Murphy about it.

The Europa League also represents Liverpool's final chance of lifting a trophy this season and winning it is a more realistic route to Champions League football than a top-four finish although it is worth remembering that if Tottenham won the Europa League and finish in the top four it could open up an extra Champions League place for an English team. Either way Liverpool need to continue to battle for every Premier League point too as we want European football in 2016/17.

Using the disappointment of losing the Capital One Cup final to Manchester City on penalties can now be a galvanising factor for the Europa League, but no Liverpool player should need any extra motivation ahead of playing Manchester United. The decibel levels that will have their ears ringing when both teams walk onto the Anfield pitch will remind them that more than a place in the quarter-finals is at stake.

Follow Neil on Twitter
@NeilMellor33



CLUB

Reds in the community, official merchandise and the LFC SC members...

John Barnes in hard hat and hi-vis jacket leads Ian Rush and other Liverpool FC legends during a topping-out tour of the new-look Main Stand. Everyone knows Rushie is LFC's all-time top goalscorer (with 346) – but where is Barnes (with 108) on the list? Answer on p98


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carillion
LEO

OP
OF THE KOPS

Gary Mac and fellow LFC legends write their names (literally) in Anfield history



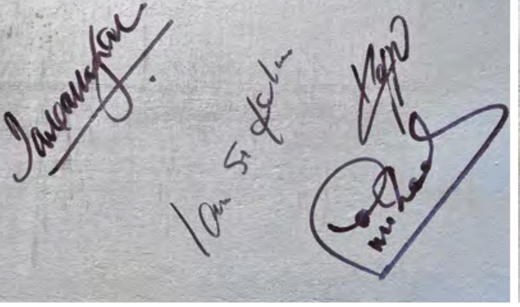
A "topping-out" ceremony has been held at Anfield, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing expansion of the stadium. The project will see the Main Stand transformed into one of the largest all-seater single stands in all of European football, while incorporating an additional 8,500 spectators and state-of-the-art facilities.

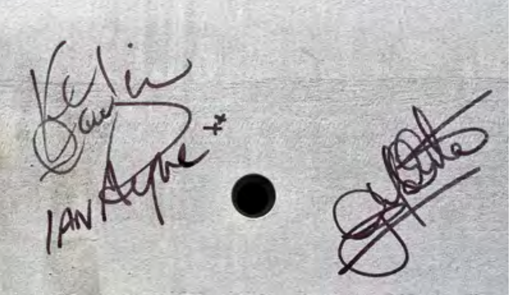
Topping-out, a tradition in the construction industry to bestow good luck on a new building, is held when a structure has reached its maximum height. The expanded Main Stand now stands at more than double the height of the existing stand, after a year of construction work at Anfield.

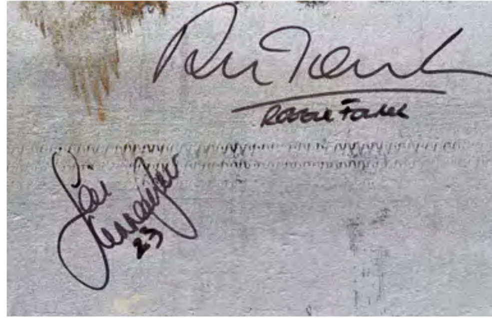
Manager Jürgen Klopp and club non-executive director Kenny Dalglish joined a host of Liverpool FC legends – including Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler, Gary McAllister, Jamie Carragher, John Barnes, Phil Neal, Alan Kennedy, Ian Callaghan, Ian St John and Roger Hunt – to mark the occasion with construction workers on-site.


Step by step into history

How many LFC stars can you recognise?







Project timeline

4.12.14
LFC confirms redevelopment of Anfield

5.12.14
Carillion begin construction work

6.01.15
Hillsborough Memorial placed in safe storage with temporary memorial erected at Centenary Stand

24.02.15
Shankly Gates placed in safe storage

09.03.15
First steel erected at Anfield

05.06.15
Main Stand's new 650-tonne truss assembled on-site

09.07.15
UK's largest cranes arrive ahead of truss-lift

24.07.15
Truss lifted above stadium in complex operation taking several hours

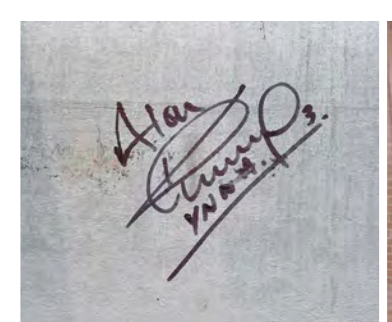
03.09.15
First sections of concrete terracing installed on new upper tier

04.09.15
First bricks laid on Main Stand's new podium level

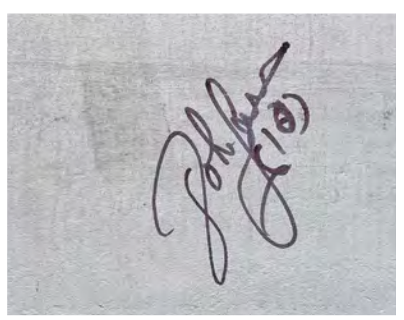
02.11.15
First roof rafter installed beneath truss

04.01.16
Upper Tier concrete terrace completed

25.01.16
First glazing installed







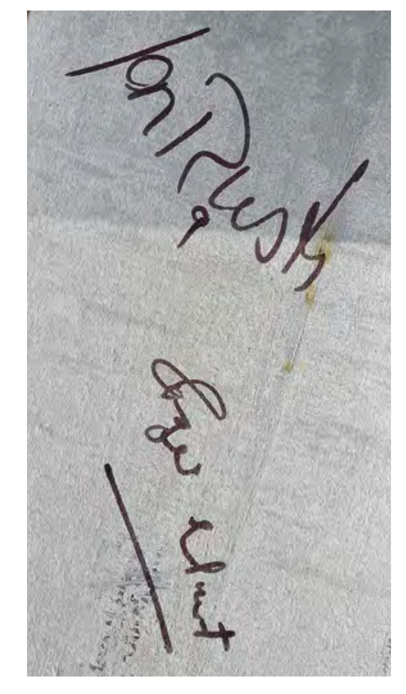


The Saint and the boss shake on it!

The ex-players were given a tour with some impressive city-views, and they signed a piece of structural steel which will ultimately be secured into the Main Stand's new roof – itself designed to project the noise from fans down onto the pitch, protecting the unique Anfield atmosphere. The signatures will remain on the steel for the life of the building.

The football club announced the redevelopment in December 2014 with plans to increase the overall capacity of Anfield to around 54,000. Construction partner Carillion arrived on-site later that month, with work underway in January 2015.

The Main Stand expansion project is on target for completion later this year, with the redeveloped stand set to comprise three tiers and the existing lower tier re-profiled to accommodate a widened player tunnel, new team benches, media platform and wheelchair viewing positions.



Attn Anfield anoraks...

If all the bricks and blocks used in the Main Stand were used to create a 0.5m high wall, it would stretch 40 miles – further than the length of the Channel Tunnel.

The Main Stand will hold 20,500 seats and if they were placed end-to-end it would stretch six miles.

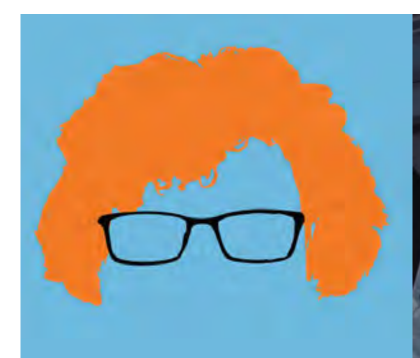
A total of 760 panes of glass will be fitted in the Main Stand – placed end-to-end it would stretch 423 metres (four times longer than the pitch).

The main section of glass is 23m in height – taller than the Anfield Road Stand

The combined internal floor spaces within the Main Stand are five times larger than the pitch.

ABSOLUTE MAGIC!

Watch 'mind wizard' Dave cast an April Fools Day spell on LFCTV





Liverpool Football Club's resident magician Philippe Coutinho may well have met his match – off the pitch at least. The Brazilian ace plus fellow midfielder and compatriot Lucas are just two of the Reds stars to be dazzled by Dave Alnwick on LFCTV.

Joining them in awe and appreciation are Joe Allen and Adam Lallana, youngsters Cameron Brannagan, Brad Smith and Connor Randall plus a host of Liverpool Ladies stars, as the worlds of football and magic collide on LFCTV and LFCTV GO with the airing of *Dave Alnwick: Trickster*.

The one-hour special on Friday 1 April features 'mind wizard' Dave performing his particular brand of psychological illusion to some of Anfield's finest. "I've never really followed football," he confesses, "so working on this project with people across Liverpool FC has been a real eye-opener."

The idea for the show started when a member of the LFCTV production team saw Alnwick performing street-magic in the city centre. Originally from Gateshead, Dave moved to Liverpool to study and never looked back. "I really love this city, I've been performing here in comedy clubs and bars for the best part of a decade. It's got a unique feel to it.

"It's been awesome meeting the Liverpool team – they're a great bunch of lads and a lot of them really like magic. Some of them actually showed me a few tricks!"

Dave Alnwick: Trickster premieres on LFCTV at 19.30 on Monday 1 April and will be available to LFCTV GO subscribers from the same time.











NEVER TALK ALONE


Honorary President: Karen Gill

Who's who on this season's Liverpool FC Supporters Committee

The Liverpool FC Supporters Committee was set up to help improve communications between fans and the club, and its various members (including new appointments from this season) represent all of the major constituencies among the supporter base. Contact details are at liverpoolfc.com/fans/supporters-committee. You can also follow us on Twitter @LFCSupCom.


Fans who attend away games: Anna Burgess


Supporters Under 25: Bella Ainsworth


Fans in the Merseyside area: Graham Smith


Family Match Goers: Ian Byrne


Female Fans: Tara Fisher


Disabled Supporters: Katie Price


Official Supporters' Clubs: Lee Foley


Season Ticket Holders and Hospitality: Tony Fitzgerald


Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Supporters: Yunus Lunat


International fans: Matthew Selby


LGBT Supporters: Paul Amann


Steven with pupils and Foundation coaches

DIFFERENT CLASS

Defender joins Foundation coaches for Anfield Road Primary PE lesson

Reds centre-back Steven Caulker paid a special visit to Anfield Road Primary School recently to take part in Liverpool FC Foundation's Premier League School Sports programme. In conjunction with the Premier League, the Foundation delivers National Curriculum PE lessons to different year-groups at the school, which is close to Liverpool FC's famous stadium, to help keep pupils fit and healthy and also support a well-rounded education.

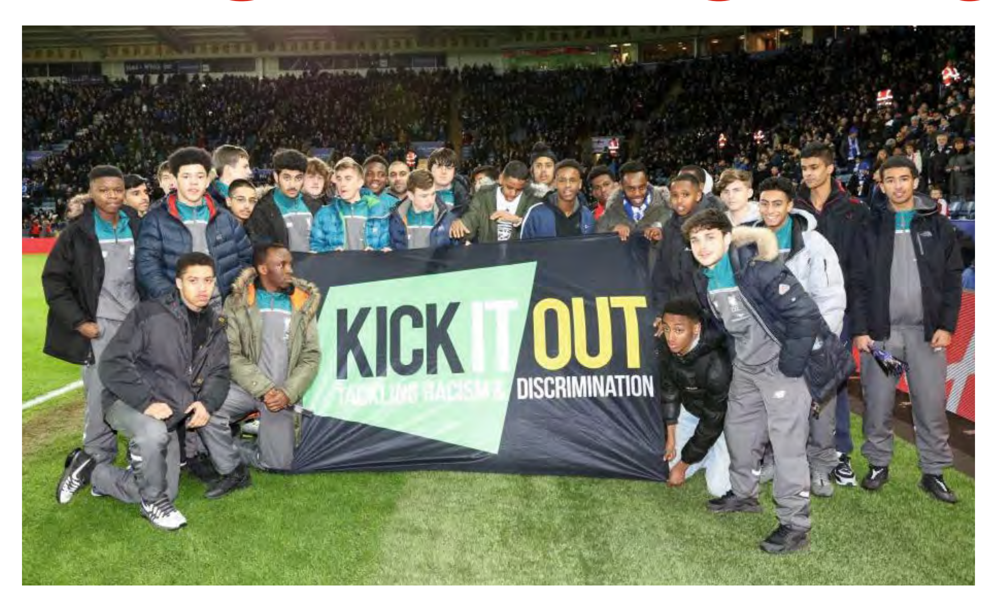
Steven, who took part in a multi-sports lesson run by Foundation coaches, focusing upon agility, balance and coordination, said: "It's extremely important that children take part in PE lessons to stay fit and healthy. This is my first outing with the Foundation and it's a fantastic privilege to help promote the benefits of an active lifestyle, and really important too that football clubs and players give back to the fans and local community."




High-fives!

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, added: "It is brilliant to see Steven visit Anfield Road Primary to show his support for the Premier League's School Sports Programme. The visit also highlighted the breadth of Liverpool FC Foundation's work across a variety of different sports, with highly qualified and experienced coaches working alongside school staff to deliver National Curriculum lessons and sport-specific extra-curricular clubs in both mainstream and specialist educational settings."

KIDS PLAY HOME & AWAY





Fifteen participants from Liverpool FC Foundation's Kicks programme took part in a Kick It Out workshop at Leicester City FC, where they were offered an introduction to issues surrounding stereotyping and prejudice.

The 30-minute workshop was followed by seven-a-side matches and an invitation from the Foxes to attend the Premier League fixture later that evening at the King Power Stadium – in which LFC Foundation youngsters helped parade a Kick It Out banner around the ground. Kicks programme-lead Tony Cosgrove said: "Leicester City and their community team must be commended for their fantastic hospitality. We hope to be able to work together again in the future."

Back home, participants from the Kicks programme also took part in an initiative encouraging more young people to play competitive football during weekends. The 7v7 event was held on the newly-installed Cruyff Court at Anfield Sports & Community Centre and as well as participants from the Foundation's Kicks sessions, Everton and Stoke City also competed in a tournament which saw three excellent games take place.

Tony Cosgrove described 7v7 as "a reward-based incentive to encourage young people to get up and get active on Saturday mornings, as well as enabling increased confidence, respect and self-discipline. Running these tournaments regularly can also help to increase self-esteem, develop positive relationships and skills and encourage long-term commitment – all of which may lead to behavioural changes among individuals previously involved in anti-social behaviour."

THE COP GOAL!



Local youngsters have been granted a special audience with the chief constable of Merseyside Police thanks to Liverpool FC Foundation. Participants from the Foundation's Kicks and Women & Girls programmes spent time at Anfield with Sir Jon Murphy to hear about his 40-year career. Afterwards the group enjoyed a traditional meal to support the R Charity's 'Scouse at R House' initiative.

Foundation head Andrea Cooper said: "We are committed to helping young people reach their full potential, so it was fantastic for the participants to gain advice from such a key Liverpool leader."

Sir Jon added: "I am always keen to share my experiences with young people and it was great to spend the day with such an inspiring group from Liverpool FC Foundation. I hope that they continue to be inspired to reach their full potential."

LIVERPOOL FC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE DELIVER A RANGE OF INITIATIVES THAT INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE HAPPEN FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION



Foundation



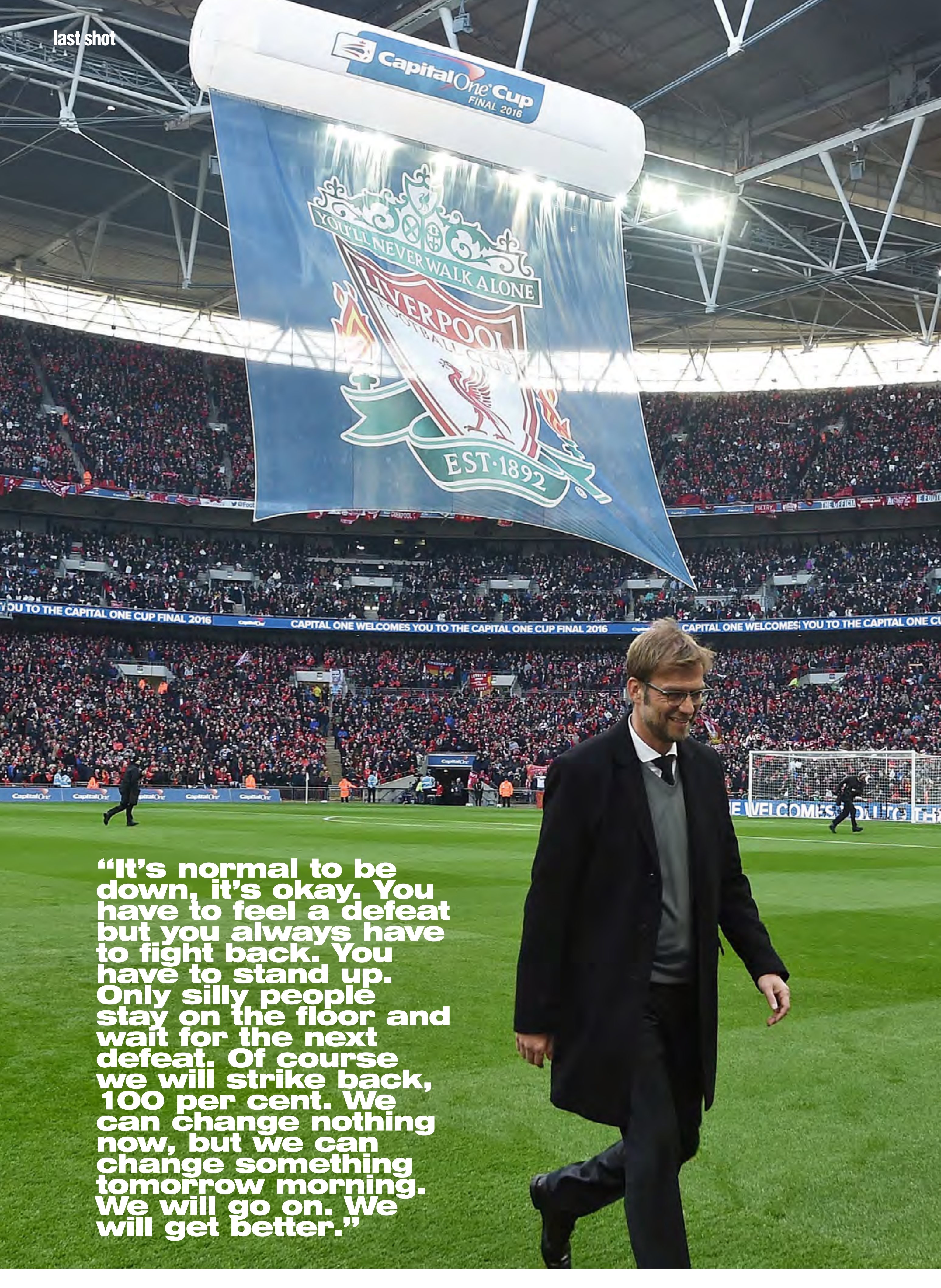
Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in all Official Club Stores and the Official Online Store at store.liverpoolfc.com. For more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram.

SPRING IS HERE

Here are just a few selections from the LFC Retail Spring Collection – why not spoil yourself or someone special as the days become longer?



BRAZIL BLEND
Mens Red Start Marl Zip Thru Hoody (A5419) £35



"It's normal to be down, it's okay. You have to feel a defeat but you always have to fight back. You have to stand up. Only silly people stay on the floor and wait for the next defeat. Of course we will strike back, 100 per cent. We can change nothing now, but we can change something tomorrow morning. We will go on. We will get better."

QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p5: Our scorers in the 2005 Carling Cup final against Chelsea at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium were John Arne Riise (first minute) and Antonio Nunez (113th minute); **FOOTBALL p21:** Roberto Firmino scored his first Anfield goals – two of them – against Arsenal in the Barclays Premier League on Wednesday 13 January this year, with the game finishing 3-3; **CLUB p85:** John Barnes is 15th on the list of all-time LFC goalscorers – his 108 goals between 1987 and 1997 putting him ahead of Kevin Keegan (100), Luis Suarez (82) and Fernando Torres (81).